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DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM, THE GARDEN, THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

AND NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURE.

JOURNAL OF

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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

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Editorial.

JANUARY ON THE FARM.

It's a good plan to square up with everybody at this season, even if the money to pay is not on hand. We ought to know just how we stand with the world, just how much we owe to each and how much each owes to us. These old accounts that stand along year after year are bad things, and they are an intolerable nuisance unless they are run over occasionally so that they may be kept straight between man and man.

Do up the chores. There will be many days when chopping wood will be good exercise. There is nothing more satisfactory than a big wood-pile in the yard, or what is better, in the shed where it ought to be.

But work will not be very driving this month. There will be a good deal of time to read and study, and if the reading is well selected, the time will not be lost or misspent. Intelligence is the crowning glory of this civilized age, and though reading is by no means the only road to intelligence, it is, no doubt, one of the most direct, and it cannot be neglected. As a source of pleasure and satisfaction, a judicious course of reading and study has no equal. Knowledge is never so successfully cultivated as when it becomes a pleasure, and no pleasure is more permanent than the successful pursuit of knowledge.

The Farmer's Club, too, is a thing to be encouraged. Don't neglect this among other means of improvement. There is a sort of *jostling in the minds* of many that they are too old to learn. There is nothing more fallacious, and this idea has, no doubt, been a serious stumbling block to many whose minds were otherwise sound, strong and clear. This is most frequently only an excuse for sloth and laziness, for many a man with a proper appreciation of the value of time, has begun late in life to acquire what others think it necessary to acquire in youth and has succeeded, too. You have heard that the great Socrates began to learn music at an extreme old age. You know that Cato began the study of Greek at eighty-eight years of age, and became a good Greek scholar. Plutarch also began the study of Latin at seventy-eight and acquired it. Sir Henry Spelman began the study of the sciences when between fifty and sixty years of age, and after that period of life became a most learned lawyer and antiquarian. Ludovico was a hundred and fifteen years old when he wrote the memoirs of his own times, and Voltaire was a hardly less marked example of the progress which old age can make in new studies. Dryden was in his sixtieth year when he began the Iliad of Homer, and our own Franklin did not begin his philosophical studies till his fiftieth year. Innumerable examples show the folly of this excuse of age. It is never too old to learn, if we will but improve our time. Time is the most precious possession we have on earth, and to waste it is the most shameful prodigality. Let not age, even old age, stand in the way of the acquisition of knowledge of every useful kind.

To say nothing of the general information, which it is the duty of every one to acquire, there is scarcely any department of agricultural knowledge that is fully developed and which could not be studied by every farmer to advantage. Take, for example the single matter of feeding stock for the various purposes for which it is kept, for milk, for beef and for labor, and how wide is the field of investigation, how much of farm economy it embraces, and how interesting it may become. How many of us understand fully, how far the way of preparing food for cows influences its milk producing value? Who can tell positively the value of raw as compared with cooked food? How far shall we go in furnishing a variety of foods instead of limiting the cows to one? A thousand such questions will arise to the mind of an intelligent farmer, the moment he begins to investigate the subject of feeding, on all of which there is a vast amount of information already acquired by careful and elaborate experiment. All this should be studied in the most minute manner before the farmer is even prepared to experiment intelligently, unless he will spend his time on what has already been done quite as well as he could do it.

To show the influence which the mode in which the feed of cows is prepared exerts upon the milking capabilities of the animal, M. Lejeune, the Director of the Royal Agricultural School at Thourout, near Bruges, in Belgium, made some experiments which throw light upon the subject. Eight cows were selected and fed in the following manner: Each cow got per day 4.4 lbs. (four and four tenths) of meadow, what many of us would call English, hay, 13.2 lbs. of straw, 18 lbs. of linseed meal, 11.5 of beet root, and a cooked mash consisting of 55 lbs. of turnips, 27 lbs. of beets, 1.2 lbs. of linseed meal, 3.2 lbs. of rape cake, 1.1 lbs. of grain dust, 1.1 lbs. of mixed meal, and about 1.1-2 ounce of salt, and 6 gallons of water. This as will be seen was a very watery diet. It gave an immense quantity of milk, but it took 16 quarts to make a pound of butter. The nutritive value of food was calculated to be equivalent to a trifle over 30 lbs. of good upland meadow hay per cow.

The next step was to propose a food which consisted of oat straw, beets, rye meal, oats and buckwheat, linseed cake, rape cake, and bran, and to give it in such a proportion as to make the day's food a little over 31 lbs. of good hay. None of the food was cooked. The beets were reduced to small pieces and meal sprinkled over them. The quantity of milk was less, but the proportion of butter was much larger, being 2 lbs. for every 20 quarts of milk.

Another experimenter tried *boiled turnips* with *soft boiled beans* mixed among them. Then he ground the beans into meal and mixed it raw with the boiled turnips, and he found that the former method gave him a greater amount of milk, but never so much butter as the latter. In fact, the circumstances that modify the milk producing qualities of food are infinitely varied, and if a farmer would begin by studying that most attractive and most elaborate essay of Mr. Horsfall, on this subject, and follow up the various authorities and experiments which are now within his reach, he would find the subject one of intense interest and of great practical value.

We must study these important questions more than we have done. Years ago, with cheap land, and cheap labor and cheap everything, a few dollars lost on a miserable cow or an inefficient, and uneconomical mode of treatment, mattered little, perhaps. We must calculate closer now.

We cordially wish every reader of the *Ploughman* A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WHICH KIND OF FOWLS TO KEEP?

The question is often asked us, "Which kind of fowls do you advise me to keep," to which we reply:—

If you want eggs through the greater portion of the year, but do not care for poultry for the table, keep the Leghorns; if you want eggs through the winter at the time when hardly any other varieties are laying, keep the "Light Brahmas" or White Cochins; in fact the greatest value of the Brahma lies in its superior laying capacity during the winter months. We know of no breed of fowls that will begin to produce so many eggs between November and May as this; and, as the eggs are large and heavy, they find a quick market in the season when eggs bring the best prices.

For broilers, eight or ten weeks old Brahma chickens are very desirable,—in fact, at that age they are among the very best of breeds; but, as roasters, they are not in their prime until they are eight or nine months old.

To those who want a beautiful breed of fowls for fancy stock, we unhesitatingly recommend the White Cochin; we know of but few large varieties that show as well on the lawn or in the poultry yard as this breed, and as good winter layers they are very favorably known. They are a very quiet, stay-at-home bird, and quite a low fence will keep them. The young Cochin, say at from eight to ten weeks old, makes a capital broiler, being round and full breasted; but for roasters, however, the Cochin is of little value until it has matured, and even then it cannot compare with the Brahma, Plymouth Rock, etc. As mothers for early chickens the hens of this breed are unexcelled; they are large, and being covered with a heavy coat of long, fluffy feathers, they can cover quite a numerous brood.

If you want a breed that lays a fair number of good flavored eggs, is a handsome bird to keep, and is in addition a magnificent table fowl, get the Plymouth Rocks.

Another year's experience with this breed further confirms our previous good opinion of it. The Plymouth Rock is destined to arrive at great popularity among those farmers and breeders of poultry who want a hardy, quick-maturing variety. It is not a remarkable layer, and it does not grow to the size of the Asiatics, but it will put on its bones a greater amount of meat in a given time, from its day of hatching up, than almost any other breed.

In respect to hardiness, the Plymouth Rocks, both as chicks or mature fowls, are almost unequalled; they are early fledgers, the chicks being full-feathered when the Brahma chicks, hatched in the same brood, are running about almost naked. This trait in the Plymouth Rock places them among the most desirable breeds for broilers or spring chickens.

As roasters, the matured birds are among the very best; in fact, we cannot tolerate on our own table any other fowls, after they have matured, if Plymouth Rocks are obtainable.

HOW TO CURE BACON.

We have had our meat houses so far from the curing of our meat until a great many have almost forgotten how to save good bacon; hence I will give my plan to your many friends of making good home cured bacon. Be sure to get the hogs good and fat and kill in a good spell of weather and when the hogs are in a good, thriving condition. After the hogs are all cut up each piece, (sides excepted) should be exposed to the cold night air, and the house top is an excellent place. In the morning early the meat should be taken down and every piece nicely trimmed with a sharp knife, saving all "bits" for lard, so that there will be no waste. Prepare the salt and saltpetre. Put one bushel of salt to every eight hundred pounds of meat. Salt down in large boxes or hogsheads and put on each ham and shoulder one teaspoonful of saltpetre as you pack the meat down. Put the meat down carefully and well packed, using all the jowls to keep level and close. Let the meat stay in salt two weeks, then take up, re-salt and repack, using no more saltpetre. At the end of two more weeks take up the meat and wash the salt off the joints; then scald in boiling lye and put up for a few hours to dry; then take corn meal and mix with ground pepper, say one-quarter of a pound of pepper to one half bushel of meal. Before putting on the meal take a swob and put molasses all over the raw or flesh side of the meat, and then put on plenty of meal; thus mixed, and lay up with the skin down, for four or five days keep a good smoke, and you will have bacon "that is bacon." The saltpetre makes the meat dry faster, firmer and more attractive when cooked and placed upon the table. The lye destroys all unpleasant odors. The molasses helps to save the meat and keeps the meal upon the meat, while the pepper is a poison to the fly and its eggs, besides giving a nice flavor to the meat.

I thus saved more than eight hundred pieces of meat in one winter without the loss of a piece, and some of my hogs weighed as follows: 571, 485, 440, 436, 416, 411, 410, &c.—*John T. Murdock, M. D., in Southern Live Stock Journal.*

☞ Calves and yearlings, and cows and oxen as well, when infested with lice, should be freed at once by rubbing the skin with a mixture of sweet oil and kerosene in equal parts. During the winter young animals should be kept growing by means of nutritious food, good shelter, and cleanliness.

Questions & Answers.

WHAT AILS THE YEARLINGS?

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

A neighbor of mine has had one case each year for three successive years like the following: A good, healthy yearling suddenly refuses to eat, and in forty-eight (48) hours dies; an examination shows mortification of lungs and immediate organs and one fore leg. Same in each of the three cases, and declared by competent surgeons *not* "bloody murrain," and not contagious. What can it be? The calves or yearlings were from different cows in each case. If you or any of the readers of the *Ploughman* can solve the mystery, you will confer a great favor upon "my neighbor," and upon the farmers in this vicinity. Yours respectfully, W. E. S.

Worcester, Dec. 26, 1877.

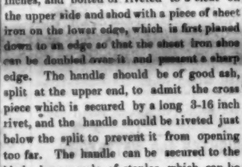
The inference is that the yearlings were attacked with congestion of the lung. The connecting organs and fore leg being affected, only confirms the opinion that a violent attack of congestion of the lung had occurred which extended to the neighboring tissues. We do not pretend to "solve the mystery," in fact there is no mystery about it, excepting that one animal only was the victim, and its regular occurrence. It is not a rare occurrence for animals kept on a farm for years, in perfect health, to be attacked by disease, after recovery, remaining healthy for a long time; careful investigation failing to discover the cause.—[ED.

CLEARING AWAY SNOW.

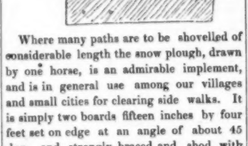
Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

The remarkably fine weather which has prevailed through the entire month of December can hardly be expected to continue much longer—a good snow storm may soon be expected and I would suggest the propriety of preparing a few needful tools beforehand, so that when we wake up some morning and find our yards and buildings blockaded there will be little delay in breaking out the paths.

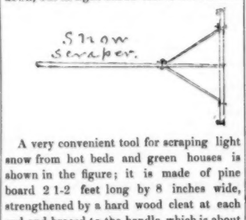
There are a few tools very convenient for clearing snow paths which any ingenious farmer can readily make who can use carpenters' tools.



The snow shovel is best made of a piece of 3-8 inch birch board 18 inches by 20 inches, and bolted or riveted to a cleat on the upper side and shod with a piece of sheet iron on the lower edge, which is first planed down to an edge so that the sheet iron shoe can be doubled over it and present a sharp edge. The handle should be of good ash, split at the upper end, to admit the cross piece which is secured by a long 3-16 inch rivet, and the handle should be riveted just below the split to prevent it from opening too far. The handle can be secured to the blade by a couple of staples which can be riveted or bolted on.



Where many paths are to be shovelled of considerable length the snow plough, drawn by one horse, is an admirable implement, and is in general use among our villages and small cities for clearing side walks. It is simply two boards fifteen inches by four feet set on edge at an angle of about 45 deg., and strongly braced and shod with iron where much used; it is provided with handles like a plough; when the snow is deep and solid a boy rides it to keep it down, but in light snows this is not needed.



A very convenient tool for scraping light snow from hot beds and green houses is shown in the figure; it is made of pine board 2 1-2 feet long by 8 inches wide, strengthened by a hard wood cleat at each end and braced to the handle, which is about seven feet long. For clearing snow from the glass roof of a greenhouse there is nothing better than a common hay rake, using the back; it is light and easily handled. A little forethought in providing these tools will make light work when the time comes to use them.

For clearing off damp snow, heavy drifts, hail and sleet, these light wooden tools are not well suited, and recourse must be had to a broad bladed iron shovel such as is used by the coal heavers. W. D. P.

ATTRACTIVE HOMES.

There is use in beauty. It makes home attractive, its exterior more respectable, our lives happier, our dispositions sweeter, and our social and domestic intercourse more refined. By all means plant some little thing of grace to temper the rugged surroundings of the front yard. Its silent, though eloquent language, will speak to the visitor or the passer by a word of eulogy for you. The least flower or shrub will be some attraction; a curved path winding between trees to the house, a mound of stones and shells with the ivy trailing over them, the flowering shrub or the turf of fern—all such things are attractive and form a pleasing object for the eye of even the most indifferent beholder.—*Rural Messenger.*

DRYING PLANTS FOR HERBARIUM.

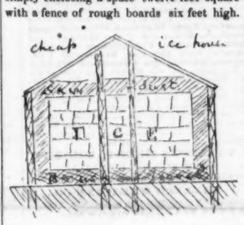
A Vienna (Austrian) journal, in relation to preparing specimens for the herbarium, says: "Most botanical students must have regretted the change of color which plants undergo in drying. We are here informed that this inconvenience may be obviated by dipping the plants in a warm mixture of 1 part hydrochloric acid and 600 alcohol, shaking them to get rid of superfluous fluid, and then laying them in warm blotting paper, which ought to be changed at least once daily. By this means, the plants will not only dry quickly, but will also retain their natural color."

☞ California's wool growth is becoming one of her greatest industries, the export last year having been over fifty million pounds, worth $9,000,000. There are several wool growers who own from thirty thousand to forty thousand sheep each.

A CHEAP ICE HOUSE.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Those farmers who wish to provide themselves with a cheap ice house can do so by simply enclosing a space twelve feet square with a fence of rough boards six feet high.



The ground should be covered a foot deep with brush and leaves for a floor; the ice is then stacked up inside the enclosure having a space of one foot or 15 inches on all sides between the ice and the fence which is filled with sawdust as fast as the ice is piled in. When enough has been stored it is covered with a foot or 15 inches of sawdust, tan or bog hay. Then a loose roof of boards is thrown over it to shed rain and keep off the sun, leaving plenty of air holes at the gables for ventilation. A little care will be needed to keep good the covering of sawdust as the ice settles—it can be kept thus without much care and is so great a comfort that most people now regard it as one of the necessities in housekeeping. At one end of the building two posts are set two feet apart and the space between them is filled by movable boards which are taken out as the level of the ice falls during summer; the ice is thus taken out at any time without lifting it over the boarding. This entrance is best made on the north side as it will be most often opened in summer and it is desirable not to admit the sun. A structure of this sort, 12 feet square, will hold about 150 blocks of ice 22 inches square and a foot thick, an ample supply for a large family. W. D. P.

HINTS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

The commencement of another year, say you, is present; and in reviewing the works of the past year, how much is observable that should and *could* have been done had we been the impress of its value upon our minds that we now possess. In this review we can now ascertain the results of our industry or idleness, throughout the past year, and from it frame arrangements and designs for improvement the coming year.

Although every man may not be a book reader, yet should he be a book keeper; not, perhaps, in a mercantile view, but a book keeper recording daily the recording of his practices, and short notes of his errors. And he should frequently take a survey of his course, and comparing it with new theories or practices of others, having reference to improvement. In moments of leisure, a memorandum of such things as may be required should be made, and at every convenient opportunity each in its turn should be procured. Many an one has lost time and money, from a want of some little item that could have been readily procured, or made note of, at any time in the winter or leisure season. These words are written to *all*; the farmer, gardener, grocer, and all other of commercial, or mechanic arts. In early teachings of youth, parents often direct their children to keep a memoranda book, in which daily they record expenses, wants, errors, etc., this to be shown once a week to those who have the care of them.

One rule in all of these daily notes, is in making them, not to calculate too largely of estimates of what can be done, but cast a glance backward and see whether you have not in the performance of your last year's plans, been compelled to let some things go undone for want of time. F. R. E.

TOP-DRESSING GRASS LANDS.

This duty of the farmer is in season at any time, except while the grass to be mown or fed is growing most vigorously so that the dressing will interfere with the gathering of the crop. For mowing lands I have found it a good time for top-dressing soon after removing the first crop of hay; the ground then, usually, takes up the manure with less seeming or real waste than at other seasons; the dews and rains dissolve the manure, carrying the elements into the soil to be appropriated by the roots of the grass, thus furnishing a sort of mulch to protect the exposed roots, and supplying plant food to induce a new and vigorous growth.

The accumulating and preparing of compost and manure is in order at all times on the farm. In warm weather decomposition takes place more readily than in cold, so that it is better to make up the compost heap for this top-dressing in spring or the early summer, although as stated above, it is in order at any season. Everything available and convertible should be appropriated to the compost heap—muck, sods from waste places of the farm, etc., mixed with stable or yard manure, heaped, in moderate weather soon heat and the whole becomes leavened. Where animal manure is lacking, muck or sods, with a sprinkling of lime throughout the heap, with the addition of a little salt and ashes, will make a good dressing; the rains, or in their absence, a thorough watering of the heap, will supply moisture, so that in a short time the whole will become decidedly warm, when it should be overhauled, mixing it quite thoroughly and fining it to the greatest possible extent. Farmers generally do not attach sufficient importance to fining and equal distribution of compost and farm manures, on and in the soil. Usually where the compost is made up as above, one overhauling will suffice to fully traction; a curved path winding between trees to the house, a mound of stones and shells with the ivy trailing over them, the flowering shrub or the turf of fern—all such things are attractive and form a pleasing object for the eye of even the most indifferent beholder.—*Rural Messenger.*

Correspondence.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman

BERKSHIRE FARMERS' FESTIVAL

BY ALEXANDER HYDE.

Berkshire was the last settled county of Massachusetts, and is still considered by many Down Easters as an ultra-montane region, too remote from the Hub to share largely in that perfection of culture which distinguishes the modern Athens. Some parts of the county are indeed rough and rocky, but these are not without their peculiar blessings. As a good Down East deacon once said to a hill-town friend whom he was visiting, "You are highly favored of the Lord up here." "How so?" asked the friend. "Why the ministers and good men are always praying for the desolate parts of the earth, and your country looks desolate enough to share largely in the benefit of their prayers." Whether peculiar blessings have been bestowed on Berkshire in answer to their prayers, we will not pretend to say, but that eminent favors have been manifest on the hills, and that profound cause for gratitude is seen in the valleys of Berkshire, we stoutly maintain. We, the denizens of these hills and valleys fully believe that we have the strongest soil to be found in Massachusetts, as also the purest air and sweetest water. Boston claims to be the brains of the State and Worcester the heart, but the stomach and lungs are to be found in Berkshire. If a man wants to eat, drink, sleep and breathe, let him come to one of these hill towns.

But we took up our pen to talk about one of the peculiar institutions of this county, the Berkshire Farmers' Festival Association. There is some dispute about the claim we put forth to having organized the first County Agricultural Fair, but no one doubts that the idea of bringing the farmers, and their wives or sweethearts, together annually for a good social time, was originated on these hills. In 1863, Mr. C. O. Perkins of Becket,—one of the "desolate" places,—at that time a member of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, was impressed with the idea that a lack of sociability was one of the great wants of the isolated farmer. Living on an out of the way farm, and loving society, he felt the want in an unusual degree, and after consulting a few friends, he determined to invite some of the leading farmers of the county to dine together at Curtis' Hotel in Lenox, and consider the subject of a permanent social organization, similar to those of the clergy, the lawyers, and the physicians of the county, but on an improved pattern inasmuch as the ladies should participate, and, while refining, double the enjoyment. About a hundred, including the ladies, responded to the invitation. Mr. Curtis provided one of his famously good dinners, after which followed short pithy speeches from a dozen or more of the guests. Mingled with the social chat of the evening was some good singing, and still later, those who were so inclined "tripped the light fantastic," and all went merry as a marriage bell. An association was organized called "The Berkshire Farmers' Festival Association," with a simple constitution and only three officers, a President, Vice President, and Secretary, the latter being also Treasurer.

From that year to this the Association has not failed to meet about Christmas time at some convenient hotel and have a nice social festival. This year the meeting was held at the Edwards House in Stockbridge, and although farmer Goodman was necessarily absent, farmer, not to say senator Garfield, well supplied his place. A goodlier looking company of men and women is seldom seen. It was not a dress occasion, much less a ceremonious one. It was a hearty meeting of peers to discuss the merits and demerits of agriculture, and to devise ways and means for the advancement of the calling. The venerable Samuel Lawrence, formerly of Boston, now boasting that he is a Berkshire boy, was there, brim full of humor and sound sense. He was called upon to open the intellectual feast, and said he had made his dinner of mutton, and could talk about nothing but sheep, in fact, he had thought so much about sheep for a few days he was ready to "blate." Mr. Lawrence exhibited some specimens of Cotswold wool, six or eight inches long, and recommended this breed to the Berkshire farmers as good, both for wool and mutton, and especially excellent for lambs, as they usually produced twins, and always were good nursing mothers. He spoke of the time when he was a manufacturer of wool, and frequently visited Berkshire, then a great mart for this product. He would like to see these hills again covered with flocks which would renew the soil and replenish the purse.

Mr. Hyde of Lee, being called up said he had dined on turkey, and as his venerable friend who had made his dinner of mutton could talk of nothing but sheep, so he felt impelled to say a word for poultry. In fact he had just been attending the first exhibition of the Berkshire Poultry Association, and his ears were so full of the cacklings of that exhibition that he was as ready to crow as his friend was to bleat. Mr. Hyde advocated paying more attention to poultry; and thought for the amount of capital involved no stock on the farm paid as well as a flock of hens.

But we did not sit down to report this festival, but simply to hold it up as a model for other counties to imitate. Farmers need more social life. They need just the culture which these festivals furnish, where men and women came together in their holiday attire, and in the best of humor rub against each other. Polished manners and new trains of thought must be the consequence. It is a co-education of the sexes such as we do not get at cattle shows and farmers' clubs. At the festivals every man is on his good behavior. We have attended them for fourteen years and have never had occasion to say, as a recent graduate from one of our colleges said of his president, "I have studied the president for four years to see if I could find any good manners about him, but never have I found one."

Farmers are accused of being rustic and boorish, but the rusticity is all on the surface. Their heads are all right; and they only need a little more mingling with society to become affable and polite. We were pleased to see at the recent festival in Stockbridge, how well farmers Bidwell, Butler, Williams, etc., could express themselves in an after dinner speech, a thing which many professional men find it difficult to do. As for rudeness we have observed these festivals for years as closely as the student watched his president, and if there have been cases of boorishness we have not seen one. We commend the Berkshire Farmers' Festival Association to the attention of the brotherhood throughout the State.

The Farm.

FARMING AS A BUSINESS.

It takes a "smart" man to be a successful farmer. I am well aware that quite a different opinion is entertained by many. How often do we hear the expression, "He is only a farmer," or hear the business spoken of in a deprecatory manner by presumably intelligent and otherwise well-informed people! This is a great mistake, and only shows lamentable ignorance. The business of farming is a strictly honorably one, and, if rightly conducted, one of the most healthy, pleasant and profitable employments that a man can engage in.

In order to be a successful farmer, however, a man must be as intelligent, and must understand his business as thoroughly, as he who is a successful merchant or professional man. In order to succeed in any business, a man must understand it fully in all its branches, and must also attend to it. Attention is the great secret of good farming. All our most successful farmers—those who have made money by the business—who have built up for themselves beautiful homes—who have broad, fertile, well-tilled acres, made so by the result of their industry—who have improved breeds of cattle, hogs and sheep—these are they who understand their business, and not only understand it, but *attend* to it. The business is a good one, and the reason why so many farmers make a failure of it, only eking out a bare living—hardly that sometimes—and remain in debt year after year, working hard, yet having little, is because they don't understand their business. They run it by brute force instead of brains. They pattern too much by others (generally after a poor example), and do not look into the why and wherefore of raising crops. They are not able to tell how much it costs them to raise a crop, or what their profit may be, if any. They are generally "too poor" to take an agricultural paper. They use the same old and clumsy tools that their fathers did before them, and are not in favor of improvements. Is it to be wondered at that such farmers are not successful?

There are many things that may be mentioned that will be of service to those who would become better farmers. One of the most important side is a reliable agricultural paper. Many say they "cannot afford to take one." I say they cannot afford to *do without* one. Such a paper has correspondents among the best farmers in all parts of the country—men of experience, who know what they are saying—and new and useful ideas on practical subjects are constantly kept before the reader. Improvements in agriculture of all kinds, wherever made, are immediately brought to notice, with a thousand and one useful ideas.

Another way to improve is to watch those of your neighbors who are most successful—observe their management, the crops they raise, manner of tilling and handling. Watch closely; you can learn as much from their blunders as you can from their success. When they make a mistake, remember it, and do not do the same. Keep an account of each crop you raise, expense of seed, culture and marketing. Find out whether it pays you or not. Discard those that are unprofitable, and adopt others that will pay. Keep an account of all your receipts and expenses. Many dollars slip out through foolish expenses that would not if you made a practice of writing down all expenses. See to it that the balance is on the right side of your ledger at the end of the year. Spend your leisure hours in making improvements on the farm, or in useful reading at home, instead of sitting around in the grocery at the "corners." Try to make your home pleasant, and the most attractive place on earth. These are all helps towards becoming a good farmer. —B. G. PACKARD, in *Country Gentleman.*

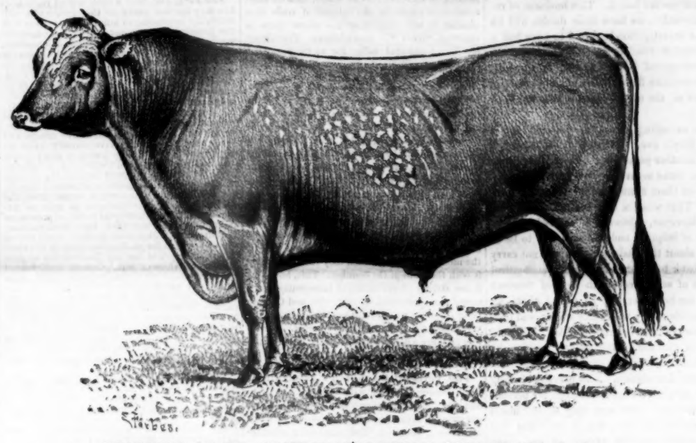
The Apiary.

WINTERING BEES.

At the recent meeting of the National Bee Keepers' Association in New York City, as reported in the *Rural New Yorker*, Mr. N. J. King said that in his opinion, one of the principal causes of the loss of bees in wintering, was their being put into winter quarters supplied almost entirely with honey gathered in September and October, as from buckwheat, the aster etc., that many of these fall blossoms secrete honey containing acids that are injurious to bees. His remedy was for bee-keepers to remove frames of comb filled with honey in June and July, and keep them to replace those combs filled in the fall. The fall honey, he said, would be very good to supply to the bees in the spring. Rather than use fall honey for wintering bees, he would prefer feeding a syrup made of two parts of best coffee-sugar to one part of pure soft water, boiled five minutes to destroy the grain of the sugar; then add a small quantity of salicylic acid. He formerly had wintered bees in a double-walled brick building, with a dead air space between the walls. They wintered well, but suffered terribly in the spring. He kept the temperature at about forty degrees above zero. In the latter part of February the bees would begin to breed, and by the time they were set out upon their summer stands, they would have a good supply of brood in all stages of development. Lately he has wintered his bees upon their summer stands well packed in "absorbing material," and seldom loses a stock.

☞ *Sheep* require a plenty of fresh air. Their warm coat protects them from the cold, and if they have a dry yard, they are better out of doors in fine weather than in a close shed.

JERSEY BULL "COSSACK 1159."



PROPERTY OF WM. CROZIER, NORTHPORT, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

Stock Department.

WHEN TO HAVE COWS COME IN.

There are men who have bred cattle nearly all their lives who hold that heifers may be bred without detriment earlier than is the common practice. There are instances of precocity and more than ordinary vitality in which early breeding may not be injurious, but as a rule, that course, in our opinion, is not judicious. We like the views expressed in the following article from the *Ohio Farmer:*

"There is quite a diversity of opinion in regard to the best time to have cows drop the calves so as to return the greatest measure of profit, and it depends very much on the persons themselves whether spring, summer, fall or winter be the best time, and on the ages of the animals, the way they are fed and the food given. Experience in this matter has demonstrated to us that the best time to have a young heifer drop her first calf is late in the spring, so she can have the benefit of plenty of sweet, nutritious grass after her calf has been taken away to stead. ily and naturally increase her flow of milk, and thereby lay the foundation of a good milker. If she comes in profit in the winter, when she has to subsist for the most part on dry feed, as do many hundreds of our farmer's cows, she will not improve as she should and would on grass. As it is the most critical period in the life of a good dairy cow, when she drops her first calf, if it be desired to have a really first-class animal, we think there should be no question about which is the best time for her to calve, for it is when she can get plenty of natural, juicy food.

"We like to have our heifers from twenty-four to thirty months old when they drop their first calves, for much earlier than this is apt to dwarf them in stature as well as in other desirable qualities, while, if left longer than that, the owner loses much time that is unnecessary. We speak from experience, though there may be many who may, and no doubt do, differ with us on this as well as many more subjects.

"In regard to mature cows, those which have had their second or third calf, the time of year for having them drop their calves is not so important a point as it undoubtedly is with young and immature dairy stock, for it is reasonable to suppose that those first mentioned have become established and are not so apt to be injured, though we shall always advocate good feeding, liberal quantity and of the best and most desirable quality.

"In either a milk or butter dairy the products of that delay command higher prices during winter than during the warm summer months; and they should do so, for the cost of producing the butter and milk, consequent on the increased labor and expense in feeding, is much more in winter than in summer when they have the benefit of plenty of good pasture.

"If there is plenty of good feed on hand and you expect to give plenty of it, to be seconded by the best care and management, then we say it will pay to have your mature animals drop their calves during winter. By the time they have decreased considerably in their flow of milk grass comes in to heighten the flow and keeps it up till they are nearly ready to go dry.

"Until we know of a better plan we shall continue to practice the above, as near as circumstances will permit us to do so, for we have had good evidence that it is a good plan. If there be a better one we are anxious to know what it is, from those who have tried it long enough to be assured of its desirability over the one mentioned above."

HAY GRAIN AND WATER.

Hay and rough feed should be fed in racks; the simpler and cheaper, if durable, the better. The practice of placing in the racks enough hay to last a week or more is open to objection. If in the yard it is damaged by the sun and storm; if in the shed it becomes tainted with the breath of the stock; then the stock will select the best first, which prevents even feeding. As a rule it is preferable to fill the racks with hay and not put in more than enough for the day.

For the farmer with good hay, corn in the ear is the cheapest grain and answers a fair purpose unless for special feeding. It seems to be the general experience that fine corn-meal ferments in the stomach, and, unless fed with fine cut hay or straw, is less profitable than whole corn. Where corn or corn-meal is used it is desirable to give a mess of wheat bran at least twice a week with a little salt in it.

We have a poor opinion of a creek or run for winter watering of stock:

1st. The approaches are deep with mud or covered with ice to the great detriment of the stock. Frequently fear of the one or the other deters an animal from taking water as often as it requires.

2. The water is too warm in the summer and too cold in the winter.

3. Through an alluvial soil surface water, unless in a rapid stream, retains quite a portion of the poisons resulting from vegetable decomposition.

A good well and wind pump with the automatic reservoir and water tanks are just the thing, and give to the prairie States better water than can be found in mountain streams.

Water the stock twice per day with water fresh from the well when the reservoir system is not in use.

A stack of good straw in the yard, and on pleasant days a run to the corn field, fill the measure of fair treatment.—*Western Stock Journal.*

☞ Separate stock into different grades; or feed these at different times if separate yards are not provided. Strife and worry at feeding times should be prevented by these or some other means.

☞ The Connecticut corn crop last year is said to be the largest gathered in twenty years. This is encouraging for that State, where the corn crop has not heretofore received the attention to which it is entitled.

The Horse.

BREEDING HORSES.

There is no way to restrain the breeding of scrubs of horses but to convince farmers it won't pay to produce such horses. If all the worthless stallions were castrated, and replaced by stall

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, · · BOSTON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1878.

twenty-four hour' sleep during that period, and fight all the rest of the time, is their only parallel. I trust, however, this will not be used as an argumrnt for shortening the rations of our favorites, because good feeding will cause a production of more butter and better quality than poor; and though I and mine suffered from short pasture—*and for good pasturage there is no adequate substitute*—yet morning and night my cows had their fill of fodder or rowen and never suffered from hunger. Taking her all in all, for a butter-dairy or as a family cow, the Jersey must be considered the most profitable, as she certainly is the most docile and beautiful.

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, JAN. 5, 1878.

The subscriptions to the *Ploughman* during New Year's Week are without precedent. The *Ploughman* was never so eagerly sought for by a wide public as it is at the present time, and subscribers have been making their welcome New Year's calls in numbers that are extremely flattering.

The advent of the Legislature is the fresh topic of talk in Boston this week. It was opened with all due ceremony on Wednesday and the Governor was inaugurated.

The explosion in financial circles in New York causes wide excitement, and raises the question whether hypothecated securities are to a very great extent retained in the hands of those to whom they are entrusted.

There is a good deal of excitement, as we go to press, in the stock market of New York incident to the recent astounding failures and the devastation they have wrought. Jay Gould has been badly wounded with the rest.

The memorial adopted by the Boston Board of Trade in opposition to the passage of the Silver Bill, to be presented to Congress is an unanswerable paper, and while scientific in its theorizing is thoroughly practical in its arguments, advice, and warning. It deserves to be seriously heeded by Congress.

The Massachusetts Legislature met Wednesday, Jan. 2, and after organizing, listened to the election sermon by Rev. Mr. Hill of Lynn, in the new Old South Church. Senator J. B. D. Cogswell was unanimously re-elected President, and S. N. Gifford, Clerk. In the House, John D. Long was re-elected Speaker, and George A. Marden, Clerk. Sergeant-at-Arms Mitchell was re-elected.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The General Court assembled at the State House on Wednesday, and proceeded to its organization in the customary manner. The amount of public business to be done at the present session does not appear to be as great as usual, yet there are several questions which are inherited from previous legislatures, and which will undoubtedly occupy much attention. The Hoosac Tunnel need not be an issue in any shape this year, since the proposed Burt line to the West does not intend to petition for any privileges which it cannot secure equally under the general railroad law. The question of taxing the property of railroads by the towns through which they run will probably form the most interesting one in the railroad line that will be raised. That of free passes may become still another.

It is given out that a prohibitory statute will be proposed, and that woman suffrage will be urged in the case of municipal elections on behalf of all women that pay taxes on property. The subject of assessment for taxation is another interesting one, and perhaps as important as any that will come up. It has been investigated and discussed now for several years, both in and out of the Legislature, and public opinion has been steadily forming in a way that seems to demand something like positive action at the present time. The purpose of many is plainly to readjust the burdens of taxation so that they shall be better equalized, so that there shall be no double taxation, and so that capital shall be invited to stay in the State instead of leaving it. Free ferries to East Boston from the City proper are certain to form an issue, on appeal from a recent decision of the Supreme Court, which discovered faulty grounds on which the city ordinance was based respecting them.

A report will be made by the Commission appointed by the Governor to investigate the present system of State Charities, in which such modifications will be proposed as will undoubtedly give rise to much discussion. A similar commission was directed by the last Legislature to inquire into the propriety of collecting and compiling the statistics of the State in reference to all interests within it, and the report is expected to prove unusually interesting and valuable in view of the increasing need of authentic statistics on which to base and with which to enlighten the public business. Something definite in this direction will doubtless be recommended in the report of the Commission. The subject of a proper system of prison instruction in morals and religion will likewise be introduced by those who of late have become deeply interested in it. Besides the above subjects there are few or none of any special importance to engage the attention of this Legislature, and the opinion is general that the session just begun ought to be a short one.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

If we regard the appearance of the present relations of England to Russia, we might be in haste to make up our minds that hostilities between these two European powers were imminent. The war feeling in the former country is manifestly on the increase, while it seems scarcely less so in the latter. The Queen's speech at the opening of Parliament, now but a little way off, is anticipated with anxious interest. It is given out that she will more distinctly and decisively describe the rights and interests of England in the Turkish war, and practically announce to Russia and to Europe what England will insist upon. This will be taken as the basis of an ultimatum which the Ministry will at once propose to Parliament, and ask that body to take such action on it as the honor and interests of the nation require.

This being the case, things may be said to be coming to a crisis fast enough. For Turkey has just requested the English government to act as a mediator with Russia on her behalf. If we are to believe what the leading Russian journals promptly reply to this, the czar's government will not only refuse to listen to any such proposal, but will likewise give notice that it regards all such efforts at mediation on England's part as actual intervention on the side of Turkey. That means simply that Russia will not tolerate any meddling by England in the business, even under the name of mediation. A reply of this character to England's offer to mediate, however diplomatically it may be made, would easily be construed by the latter as a hostile one, and full of defiance; and peaceful relations could not long afterwards be preserved between the two nations, especially with British interests put all the time at the hazard by the invasion of Turkey.

Much, therefore, depends on the temper of Russia's reply, but much more on the interpretation of that reply by Parliament. If that body proceeds at the start to take what is called high ground in reference to the Czar's government, it may be concluded that but a few months will be necessary to fuse in one glowing mass all the elements of war. Already, in fact, report goes that a large body of British troops has been ordered from India to points of strategic importance on the borders of Turkey, the purpose avowedly being to prevent the Russian occupation of Constantinople and possession of the Dardanelles. This, if true, will speedily bring on a collision, in which Germany may easily find a pretext for taking a part. In that case, Spring will find all Europe involved in a conflict whose consequences no prophet can foresee. With England it would be a last grand struggle in the face of the world for the integrity of her empire. And she would without doubt make as desperate a struggle as she did at the opening of the century with the First Napoleon.

DOING IT TWICE.

That is what rehypothecation is, as practised by New York brokers and bankers, and its secrets all come out in such astounding revelations as are made by the Netter and Bonner failures. These men have been in the habit of loaning money to parties on certain securities, and then of re-borrowing money on the same securities. Though a score of houses engaged in such transactions fail and go to smash, it is not to be assumed that their proceedings have any connection with legitimate business. The failure and running away of such men only go to establish the unwelcome fact, but fact nevertheless, that there is really no bottom to the trust on which the larger part of speculative transactions are based. This business of rehypothecation, we have little doubt, will on further investigation be found to have had a much wider run than has been suspected. The collapse of Bonner & Co., followed by the immediate flight of Bonner, is too strong a proof of the extent of these crooked dealings.

The swindling process as pursued was a very simple one. A broker takes securities from another person for a loan, and then carries those securities to a bank, and obtains on them a much larger loan for himself. That was the way Nutter did. Bonner, however, showed a somewhat nicer sense of iniquity, and was ashamed to be so open about the business. He did not carry to a bank to obtain a loan on it the identical parcel of securities which he had received from the borrower, but he mixed them up in a careless way with other stocks, and thus disposed of them surreptitiously. He could do this with the greater facility because he was himself President of the Bankers' and Brokers' Association. This practise of using other people's pledged securities for personal ends may have been only an accidental conception at first, but it evidently has grown into a regular system at last. The lender of money in this way transforms himself into a borrower, on other persons' capital which he happens to hold in trust. This is all there is to re-hypothecation.

The Winter in Illinois.—A correspondent of the *Ploughman* writing from Southern Illinois, says:—"We are having the worst winter I have ever seen. I have lived in this part of Illinois for fifty-one years, but never have seen so much rain. It commenced raining the 6th of October, and has not dried up yet. The mud is terrible. It is very bad on stock, especially sheep."

MAKING A CLIMATE.

A scheme has been broached, which is gaining popularity in Canada, for blocking up the Straits of Belle Isle, through which there is a constant flow of large bodies of cold, icy water from the north into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the effect of which is to create an intensely cold climate all along the northern shore of the Gulf. The theory is, that if this cold current and the annual incursion of icebergs were *diverted* from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the surrounding temperature would be materially raised, the chilly colds of Arctic floods would no more be felt along the shores of Quebec, vegetation would take the place of sterility, and a vast tract of land now lying idle and uncultivated, owing to the adverse influences of climate, would be made amenable to the plough and prove a great source of wealth to the country. Also, the absence of the cold current that now sweeps into the Gulf and up the St. Lawrence would allow a greater influx from the south of the edge, or fringe, of the Gulf Stream.

At certain seasons of the year this tide from the Gulf Stream, so to speak, is forced by the action of the trade winds into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the result is that on the neighboring shores, such as that of Prince Edward Island, the temperature is high and vegetation flourishes. The belief in Canada is that they would have the same results along the coast of the Gulf and that the River St. Lawrence would remain open all winter; since although ice may be seen forming about the mouths of fresh water rivers, salt water ice is never seen in the Gulf or the Straits of Belle Isle until the northern field ice is close at hand. Many scientific men are certain that, if the Straits were once closed, the results in question would be more than realized. The work of blocking the Straits is pronounced by competent engineers to be feasible and practicable. The material is on the spot ready to be thrown into the sea, and though the work doubtless seems a stupendous one it is asserted that it is by no means impossible for human skill to complete it. It would be another of the grand engineering triumphs of the age, and in its marked effects on climate in certain portions of Canada would be a marvel indeed.

Business Prospects.—It cannot be said at the beginning of the new year that there is much improvement in the prospects of business; although of course current necessities will require that more or less shall be done whether or no. The failures continue to be recorded plentifully, and their pecuniary amounts are anything but promising. The world experiences a general stagnation in trade at this time, from which we cannot expect to be entirely exempt ourselves. Judicious legislation might avail to help us somewhat, but we have got to wait for natural laws to work existing troubles out. We are in the same boat with the other commercial nations, which is another reason why we should not think we can traffic with them by a money standard which they reject. But let trade and commerce lag, the agricultural is sure of the reward of his labors, and they are just now abundant.

The Great Crops.—We gave in our last week's issue a compiled statement of the total amount of the staple crops of 1877, which goes to show what an enormous accession of food wealth was the result of the agricultural operations of the last year. It is impossible to call the nation poor that is enriched in such a way as this. With Europe in a state of confusion and these unprecedented crops on our hands besides, our exports of raw materials, especially of grain and produce cannot be other than great. The prospect abroad at present does not seem calculated to induce the hope that the establishment of peace will change the programme as it now reads. We shall without doubt continue to export grain and produce of various kinds as before, and we shall continue to profit by the balance of trade thus coming to our side. For this alone there is supreme reason for thankfulness. Providence has done wonderful things for us the past year, and there may be others equally wonderful in the future.

The Chinese Issue.—The disposal of the Chinese question is to be one of the earliest matters to come before Congress at the reopening of the session next week, and it will be seriously asked what shall be done with the Chinese in this country. The very worst charges are brought against them as a race, and the prejudices which have been brought against them are of the bitterest kind. Hence, we may look to see some decidedly exciting debates over their case on the floor of Congress. One of the gravest charges brought against them is that they spend none of the money among us which they earn, but carry it with them out of the country. This, however, is not strictly true. Chinese immigration pays round sums into the local treasuries, and Chinese labor certainly reckons for something in the development of the wealth of the country. Doubtless they are a disagreeable element, but are they the only one?

The Vermont Dairymen's Association, ninth winter meeting, will be held at Milton Jan. 16, 17, 18, 1878. Reports of experiments and questions in regard to any department of dairy husbandry, solicited. The customary arrangements for free return railroad checks will be made.

Silver Weddings.—There is a large number of these pleasant affairs in process of celebration all about us, and they are the very testimony needed in these times to show that married couples can, if they will, live together in peace and harmony for certainly twenty-five years. And if for that term, then for as much longer an one as they are allowed to stay on earth. For our own part, we think the golden wedding more beautiful and more expressive every way. When a couple have been married but twenty-five years they are ordinarily only in the heat of life's struggle, that is, if such they choose to make it. Hence the recognition they receive from their friends does not have that perfect single-heartedness and simplicity which goes with the celebration of a quarter of a century later. That comes round when both parties are nearing the verge of earthly existence and making ready to take their departure. There is an obvious reason for making the very most of the golden wedding; the silver one is but the half-way house, where nothing is really determined but that two persons can live happily together so long if they will.

Change in the Gulf Stream.—The scientific men, classed as meteorologists, tell us that the Gulf Stream, that warm river which flows across the great Atlantic with such beneficial influence upon the lands near which it runs, has of late years begun to deflect its course, and is now setting in shore towards our New England coast, thus accounting in a great degree for the modification of our climate. It is a good time to try to make us all believe the fact and its influence, now that we have cheated Winter out of so considerable a part of its reign. It is far from improbable that the case is as related. There must be something very much different from the ordinary operation of ascertained laws to be equal to creating the remarkable change which we are experiencing in the weather of the present season. The whole of the past year, in fact, was as evenly treated by the climate as any year ever was, and we may be at the beginning of an equalisation of climatic influences that are to prove desirable in every sense.

New Hampshire Agriculture.—The Agricultural and Mechanical Association of New Hampshire held its annual meeting at Manchester on the 26th. ultimo, and re-elected Gen. Natt Head, of Hooksett, President for the ensuing year. From his remarks on the occasion we gather the following interesting items in relation to the progress of Agriculture in New Hampshire:—The first agricultural fair was held in the State in 1850. The war interrupted the proceedings, which however have since been resumed with earnestness. The New England Agricultural Society held its Fairs in the State in 1870 and 1875, in connection with the State Association. On the occasion of the different exhibitions addresses have been delivered by Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, Hon. Geo. B. Loring, Judge Henry F. French, Hon. N. P. Banks, Hon. B. F. Butler, Hon. Jacob Collamer, Hon. George P Marsh, Rev. H. W. Beecher, J. Stanton Gould, Esq., Senator Patterson, President Smith of Dartmouth College, Hon Daniel Needham, and others. A series of Farmers' Conventions have also been held, at which some of the most eminent scientific agriculturists have been present and participated. The Association is in a most healthy condition, and is doing excellent service for agricultural and mechanical interests throughout the State.

Reading as Stimulus.—A writer in the *Fortnightly Review* lays down some excellent ideas about reading which all persons will find it to their interest to consider. He reminds us that a celebrated physician used to recommend reading on medical grounds. He said close study prolonged life by keeping a man out of harm's way. Our conversation, says the writer, is a bore, and hence we take to reading. We have recourse to books in order to escape from the terrible *ennui* of society. The demand for books is a demand for recreation by minds roused to intelligence, but not to intellectual activity. And the books that are produced have to meet this mental condition of the reader. They must not fatigue nor even require meditation. It is because books are so entirely a stimulus in the modern reader, or a recreation to him, that the current style of writing is prose fiction. In more thoughtful writing, the magazines have pretty much taken the place of books. Reading is done as much now for excitement or change of labor as anything.

Straw Fuel.—We waste immensely, in this country, of everything. It is an old saying that a French family could live well on what an American family wastes. The Mennonites, who emigrated from Southern Russia and came over into our far Western States, are teaching the people of that section still another lesson in this matter of thrift. Prof. Butler writes of them from Nebraska that he has recently eaten a dinner among the Mennonites which was cooked with grass, and he says he has examined straw-furnaces in the house of the Bishop and the most of his flock. The house in which the Bishop lives has been built two years, it is forty-eight by twenty-six, and there has been no freezing in it yet. Yet he has used nothing for winter fuel but straw, and his furnace, the iron work of which cost but five dollars, is heated only three times a day. As the writer expresses it, what Nebraska has wasted now warms a thousand Muscovites. These Russian furnaces are being set up in the houses of Yankees.

Poultry Premiums.—The following premiums were awarded C. E. L. Hayward, of Peterborough, N. H., at the recent Poultry Show held at Lowell:—Toulouse Geese, 1st, 2d and 3d, and $5,00 special, for best collection Toulouse, and $2 special for heaviest gander; Embden Geese 1st; Honz Kong Geese, 1st; Gray China Geese, 1st; White China, 1st and 2d and $5,00 special for best collection. Wild Geese, 1st and 2d; Sebastapol Geese, 1st; Egyptian Geese, 1st and 2d. Rouen Ducks, 1st; Aylesbury Ducks, 1st; Cayuga Ducks, 1st, 2d and 3d, and special for collection, $5,00; Gray Call Ducks, 1st and 2d; White Call Ducks, 2d and 3d; Crested Ducks, 1st and 2d; Black East Indian Ducks, 1st; Labrador Ducks, 2d; White Muscovy Ducks, 1st; Colored Muscovy Ducks, 1st; Wood Ducks, 1st and 2d. 1st on Pearl Guineas; 1st on White Guineas; 1st on Golden Pheasants; 1st on Silver Pheasants. He was awarded over $200,00 in premiums. Where he took 1st and 2d he had two pairs on exhibition of that variety. Where he took 1st, 2d and 3d, he had three pairs of the kind on exhibition.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.

WARLIKE REPORTS FROM LONDON—RUSSIA WARNED BY ENGLAND.

New York, Dec. 29.—The *Herald's* London correspondent says he is informed on good authority that in English military circles war is considered almost inevitable. Arrangements have been completed and regiments allotted for an army of 80,000 men, and steps are already taken toward the formation of a nucleus for a reserve army. Profound uneasiness prevails here and there is great depression in trade and finance.

AUSTRIA'S POSITION.

Austria intimates that she will only permit peace on the basis of the treaty of Paris.

RUSSIA WARNED BY ENGLAND.

England has sent a warning note to Russia touching her approach to Constantinople.

Bread riots are apprehended in Constantinople. The announcement that England had agreed to approach Russia relative to peace at the request of the Sultan had a reassuring effect in Constantinople.

The same announcement in St. Petersburg is reported to have had the contrary effect, creating great excitement, and it is believed the Czar will reject all peace propositions not direct from the Sultan.

TERRIBLE SUFFERING FROM COLD.

London, Dec. 29.—A despatch from Bucharest says it is impossible to procure full information regarding the condition of the Russian and Roumanian soldiers and the Turkish prisoners on the way to Bucharest during the snow storms, but from disconnected details at hand it is evident that terrible suffering has been caused among them.

A SERVIAN SUCCESS.

Belgrade, Dec. 29.—The Servian troops have captured Pirot, 35 miles southeast of Nisch, with a quantity of guns and ammunition. There are no details.

New York, Dec. 30. A cable special from London says the war party in this country is momentarily increasing in influence and numbers. The Russophiles are constantly using efforts toward the organization of liberal associations, and are quite active in passing resolutions in favor of peace; but the arrogance of Russia toward the suffering Turks and the extreme coldness displayed by Germany is extremely exasperating to the majority of Englishmen. The result is a determined increase of the war party, and the general expectation that we will be brought into war with Russia early in the coming spring. Eighty thousand native troops and 20,000 English regulars have already been ordered to be in readiness to march at short notice from India for Egypt and Turkey. It is believed that 50,000 British troops at Batoum, in alliance with the Turks, with money and arms to distribute, would raise a storm which would drive the Russians out of trans-Caucasus as well as Armenia. For some time great stores of provisions and munitions of war have been accumulating at Malta, from which point they could be easily drawn upon as needed for an English army at Constantinople or a fleet to bar the Dardenelles against the Russian ships of war. Certain well defined British interests which have been touched upon by the war will be declared by the Queen in her speech at the opening of Parliament. She will explain the situation as clearly as possible, and an ultimatum being necessary Lord Beaconsfield will ask the attention of Parliament to deal with the subject as the ministry may think consistent with the safety and honor of the country. It is believed here that a very large majority will vote with him in view of the case.

Constantinople, Dec. 30.—A despatch says that Mukhtar Pasha, in reply to the Turkish circular, reserves its right to intervene on the opening of peace negotiations, asa guaranteeing and frontier power.

The Russians are approaching Sophia, and have ordered the inhabitants to leave.

Mukhtar Pasha has left Erzeroum. One account states that he has been recalled to Constantinople, another that he has taken command of a small force in the field with which he will endeavor to keep his communication open. Ismail Hakki Pasha is in command at Erzeroum. The Russians have suspended the concentration of troops against that place on account of snow. They are making roads by tunnelling through the snow.

London, Dec. 30. The *Daily News* Bucharest correspondent states that intelligence is received from the bridge at Petrocani, the last which remained across the Danube, has been carried away. A few boats occasionally cross, but the passage is hazardous and several persons have already been drowned.

ENGLAND'S NOTE TO RUSSIA.

London, Dec. 31. The *Standard's* correspondent at Vienna says that Lord Derby has sent a note to Count Andrassy, expressing the hope that in view of the desire of Europe for peace the other powers will assist as much as possible England's steps in favor of meditation. The following is stated to be a text of England's note to Russia:

"Her Majesty's Government begs to inform the Emperor that the Porte is ready to open peace negotiations. The Emperor's wisdom and generosity leave no doubt that he will notify Her Majesty's Government in the hope that he will lend a favorable ear to the Sultan's request."

RUSSIA'S REPLY.

The *Times* Vienna correspondent hears that Russia in her reply to England's note declares that if the Turks desire an armistice they must apply direct to the Russian Commmander-in-Chief.

RUSSIA AND THE PROPOSALS OF PEACE.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 31. The request of the British Government for information whether Russia will be disposed to enter into peace negotiations at the desire of the Porte has been received. It has been ascertained that abroad respecting the Russian answer and conditions she would propose for a settlement, such intelligence must be premature and inaccurate, for nothing whatever on the subject has been known though in well-informed circles it is assumed that Russia will make no harsh reply to the steps taken with the object of paving the way for peace, but will be quite accessible to any earnest endeavors for its restoration.

TURKS SURPRISED IN THE BALKANS.

Bogot, Dec. 31. After an exceedingly difficult passage over snow covered mountains and frozen foot-paths the vanguard of a Russian division has occupied the Balkan passes between Arabkonak and Sofia road. The Turks were taken by surprise, consequently the Russians entered Sofia unmolested. Along the eastern front, namely the River Lom, the Turks have withdrawn from all their positions, leaving only small armed bodies, composed of troops and inhabitants. The latter, with their arms, retired to the woods after burning their own villages.

REPORTED MOVEMENTS OF THE TURKS.

Belgrade, Dec. 31. It is rumored that the Turks have retreated from Sofia, after burning it and are marching toward the Ichtiman district to bar the Russian advance upon Tatar Bazardjik.

MIDHAT PASHA EX ROUTE FOR LONDON.

London, Dec. 31. In compliance with a summons by telegraph, Midhat Pasha has started for London. His journey is said to be connected with England's acceptance of the Porte's request for meditation.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

The *Times'* Bucharest correspondent telegraphs:—"Prince Alexander and Prince Carowitch will remain in Bulgaria with Gen. Todleben as the real commander of his army. It is reported that there are 200,000 men in Bulgaria and the supplies are inadequate. The number probably includes the sick among the Turkish prisoners."

☞ *A. Williams & Co.* have for sale a compact little pamphlet, giving the statutes authorizing the establishment of Co-operative Saving Fund and Loan Associations, together with the By-Laws of the Pioneer Association of this city, and a premium table and plan of operations.

THE WOMAN HERMIT OF NEVADA.—Last Friday a wood-teamster named McCausland, who was hauling wood in the mountains about 20 miles northeast of this city, saw a woman riding astride of a goat on the side of a mountain. She seemed quite at ease on her improvised courser, and was riding along at a fast gait, but, as soon as she saw that she was observed, she jumped off the goat and ran out of sight on the further side of the mountain, Nanny following in her tracks. The teamster is at a loss to account for the presence of the woman in such a locality, but he is sure that there are no families residing there. It was probably "Old Mother Didline," an eccentric woman, who has kept a goat and sheep ranch for the past 12 or 15 years on the eastern edge of Twenty-one-mile desert, and whose peculiarities are well known to the residents in that part of the Carson valley. She lives alone in a small cabin, with her goats, sheep and fowls for company, and studiously avoiding all intercourse with white people as long as she can. When her stock of the necessaries of life is exhausted, she visits the towns of Sutro and Dayton to sell a few dozen of eggs and chickens, with the product of which she replenishes her store. She is quite sociable to the Indians who wander in that direction, and treats them kindly always, but especially when they are ill. At such times she prepares from mountain plants, with whose properties she is well acquainted, beverages that the Piutes believe to be all-potential in restoring them to health. Her nearest white neighbor lives probably 15 miles away, but she not only does not regret her isolation, but she rather likes it, and the chances are that she prefers her mode of life in her wretched hovel to a residence on Comstock row, or in a more civilized vicinage. She is said to be the wife of Samuel Z. Dilline, surveyor of Lyon county, from whom she has lived apart for years.—*Virginia City Chronicle.*

THE HANGMAN'S RECORD FOR THE PAST YEAR shows that 83 murderers were hanged in the United States. Of this number, 67 were to white, 14 colored, 1 Indian and 1 Chinaman; 4 were hanged for indecent assaults, 1 for burgalry, 8 for wife murder, 1 for filicide and 1 for fratricide. There were three double executions, one triple, two quadruple, and one in which six men were hanged. Not a single woman was hanged; the on y one sentenced to death, Mrs. Louisa Lawson of Virginia, for her sentence commuted to imprisonment for life by the governor. Friday still maintains its reputation in the black list as the favorite day on which to enforce the death penalty, more murderers having been hanged on that day than on all the others of the week combined. Forty-seven murderers were hanged on Friday, 17 on Thursday, 9 on Saturday, 6 on Monday, 3 on Tuesday and 2 on Wednesday. There were 5 executions in January, 5 in February, 6 in March, 6 in April, 10 in May, 15 in June, 11 in July, 1 in August, 5 in September, none in October, 9 in November and 10 in December. Pennsylvania stands first on the list of States for the greatest number of executions during the past year, South Carolina being second. The executions were distributed among 25 States, as follows: Pennsylvania, 10; South Carolina, 12; North Carolina and California, 5 each; Missouri, Maryland, Georgia and Virginia, 4 each; New York, Louisiana, Arkansas, Nevada and Tennessee, 3 each; Mississippi and Ohio, 2 each; New Jersey, New Hampshire, Delaware, Alabama, Kentucky, Texas, Utah, Dakota, Oregon and Wyoming, 1 each.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Correspondence of the Massachusetts Ploughman.

The Capitol—The Climate—The Washington Monument—The Patent Office.

WASHINGTON, DEC. 31, 1877.

Since the adjournment of Congress for the holidays, the National Capitol has been comparatively dull, and but little of general public interest has transpired here to write about. States men have scattered from the arena of their fame, and the tide of humanity has temporarily subsided from its Capitol flow and ebb. But few political cullers disturb the seeming serenity at the Executive Mansion; the Departments of the Government are closed for business about midday; the trade of the city, as usual, creates no great commotion; and there seems to be a general atmosphere of Christmas and hilarity among the young, and a quiet enjoyment of it generally by other denizens of Santa Claus.

THE CLIMATE HERE.

For the season the climate here is certainly delightful. The winter solstice is passed, and yet we have had no ice or snow. The grass in the numerous beautiful parks is green, and the atmosphere is comparatively mild. Fires are a necessity for comfort, but open windows often accompany them. The streets and avenues are in fine condition, and are enlivened by splendid equipages. Altogether this is a charming place for winter residence, surpassed by no other in the country.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

The Washington Monument Association, and the committee appointed by the Government to investigate the condition of the unfinished shaft and its foundation, have, it is understood, settled their controversies, and determined to complete the structure on its present site, to a height of about four hundred and eighty-five feet. They have concluded to adhere to the outlines of the original plan, with perhaps colossal panels above the base, and to secure further legislation as soon as possible, in regard to the two hundred thousand dollars appropriated by the last Congress to complete the monument, so that the foundation can be strengthened, and the work so long delayed be commenced at an early day.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

Business in the Patent Office is on the increase notwithstanding the hard times, and the damage by fire and water to the building and its content. The cash receipts for last month are said to exceed the receipts for the corresponding month of last year, by several dollars, and to be greater than for that month in any previous year since the establishment of the office. This statement exhibits the great and growing interest in inventions, which are not only the sources of considerable receipts over expenditures to the government, but are also the fountains of enormous wealth to the nation, from consequent increased production. No other bureau authorized by Congress is of greater importance to the people at large. Here the poor workingman and the wealthy manufacturer are on an equal footing. Either can secure his rights of invention with the privilege of making it profitable, without fear or favor, for the period of seventeen years, on the simple conditions of paying certain small expenses and making a public record of the invention, to be taken advantage of generally without tribute at the expiration of that time. No bureau is of more general interest than the patent law, and none should be guarded with more scrupulous care from unwarrantable inroads of bad legislation.

THE SILVER BILL.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

In my article in the *Ploughman* of the 17th ult., information was asked for, as to whether the country and its varied interests had received any detriment by reason of our double standard of gold and silver from our organization in 1873; and in whose interest demonetization took place to which the *Ploughman* answered never a word. To the suggestion that the bondholder, after the undue advantage of escaping taxation and all the burdens resulting from the rebellion, ought *not* to be allowed to double his capital by the shrinkage of the poor man's mite, you answer that this is the side of the question that you have not and do not intend to touch. Comment here is unnecessary. Let me state your text in your own words:

Our opposition to and criticism of this measure we deliberately based on the grounds—which our correspondent has *not* touched—that to remonetize silver now would destroy the standard of value which is accepted by the civilized world.

This your correspondent did not touch, for the reason that it is not true. The single standard of silver prevails in Austria, Russia, India, Tripoli, Persia, Mexico, Central America, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The double standard of gold and silver is recognized by the laws of France, Belgium, the Netherlands—Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Greece and Bolivia; while the single standard of gold prevails only in Great Britain and its colonies, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Brazil, the German Empire, Portugal, Turkey, Egypt, Chili, Bogota and the Sandwich Islands. It is not argument that we desire upon this subject, but information.

Very truly and respectfully yours, J. R.

Madison Centre, Me.

Ayrshire Breeders' Association.—The Annual Meeting of the AYRSHIRE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION will take place THURSDAY, January 17th, at 11 A. M., at ALLEN HOUSE, Hartford, Ct. All interested in the breeding of Ayrshire Cattle are invited to attend.

THE NEW YORK DAIRY MARKET.

New York, Dec. 29.—BUTTER—Receipts for the week were 15,156 packages. Exports, 1,222 packages. Corn meal mills make a specialty of creameries, fresh from the churn, is scarce, and 40c has been had for a little of this fancy stock, and we hear of two Illinois creameries that have contracted to the 1st April next at 35c. At the same time there were about 1,000 packages of butter bought in the West last week at 8@9c. for New York account, and there are several thousand packages of common Western stock offering at 10@14c. here. Fair to good State dairies move at about 22@24c., and must be very extra to bring 25c., and buyers will not look at them if they can get fresh Western creamery, or even the best Western mill butter, to take its place. Fall butter is running poor, and in many long dairies, especially from Cayuga county, ware, the June make has the most flavor and is the best part of the dairy. The season is remarkable, being a continuous Indian summer, and navigation is still open at Albany. Spring roll butter comes in soft on account of warm weather, and is slow of sale at 16@18c. We quote: Fine fresh Western creamery make at 35@40c.; finest selection of State, fall make, 30@35c.; fair to good fall butter, 25@28c.; fresh Western factory or mill butter, 18@20c.; old favored do., 10@13c.; entire State dairies, southern and middle counties, fine, 23@27c.; entire do., fair to good, 20@23c.; entire do., northern Welsh, fine, 26@ 29c.; entire do., northern Welsh, fair to good, 20@23c.; grease butter, 7@9c.

CHEESE.—Receipts for the week were 22,000 boxes. Exports, were 16,835 boxes. There have been a few sales of specials at 13½c., and one famous factory at 13¾c., but 13c. is the regular top. There was a greater volume of business the last week, and more doing and a better feeling. We quote: Fine September and October make, 12½@13c., fair to good do., do., 11¼@12c.; early made cheese, 10@12c.; skimmed or off flavor, 6 @10c.—*Correspondence Utica Herald.*

CONSUMPTION.—We call attention to the card of Dr. E. D. Spear on our third page. Consumption, but a few years ago, was considered an incurable disease. Had it not been for Dr. Spear, so far as known still, probably, been an incurable. A few, (of the many) names of persons are given who have been cured by Dr. Spear. They are near in some part place, but near us. Write to them—see them—investigate, and when you are satisfied that these things are even so—"Go thou and do likewise." Consult Dr. Spear, arrange for a course of treatment, and months treatment. Take the medicines faithfully as described, and as soon as the New Year is here you will be thankful that the *Ploughman* points out to you the road to HEALTH.

☞ The treatment which Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham of Lynn, Mass, offers for the cure of all those complaints peculiar to the sex, and to women, has been well tested for over ten years and of its efficacy there can be no doubt. Several testimonials in another column, might have been added, but enough are there to satisfy reasonable cures which Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has effected. Send for pamphlet.

THE MACHINE WAS WORN OUT.

Why? Not because it was not well built, but it was wrongly run. Thousands of men who have run down long before their threescore and ten years are accomplished, might have been renewed into sprightliness and vim if they had tried the well known PERUVIAN SYRUP, which contains among its compounds the Protoxide of Iron, so combined that it assimilates with the blood and invigorates the whole system. This syrup has proved efficacious in thousands of cases, and will do everybody good who uses it. All druggists keep it.

ONE-FOURTH OF THE MORTALITY

In this country, is due to neglected Coughs. This is a statistical fact, and is equally true that no Cough or Cold could exist a week after the great balsamic remedy, "Hale's Honey of Horehound Tar," were taken in the early stages. Reflect on this.

Pike's Toothache Drops cure in one minute.

TO CONSUMPTIVES.

The advertiser, a retired physician, having providentially discovered, while a Medical Missionary in Southern Asia, a very simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of *Consumption*, Asthma, Bronchitis, Catarrh, and all throat and lung affections, also a positive and radical specific for Nervous Debility, Premature Decay, and all Nervous Complaints, feels it his duty to make known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive, he will cheerfully send (free of charge) to all who desire it, the recipe for preparing, and full directions for successfully using, this providentially discovered remedy. Those who wish to avail themselves of the benefits of this discovery without cost, can do so by return mail, by addressing, with stamp, DR. CHARLES P. MARSHALL, 33 Niagara Street, Buffalo, N. Y. dec29-4t

☞ Economy of time and labor, and brilliancy of gloss, are secured by use of *Baron Pasts Stove Polish*, a single trial insures this. dec1-4t.

GREAT HORSE MEDICINE.

DR. TOBIAS' VENETIAN HORSE LINIMENT, in pint bottles at $1, for the cure of colic, old sores, sprains and bruises, is the best in the world, or you pay. TOBIAS' CONDITION POWDERS are warranted to cure fever, lots, worms, give a fine coat, and increase the appetite; 25 cents; certified to by Colonel D. McDaniel, owner of some of the fastest running horses in the world, and hundreds of other persons. Sold by the druggists and saddlers. GEO. C. GOODWIN & Co., Boston Agents.

THE STOCK MARKET.

State Street, 3 P. M., Jan. 2, 1878.

	OFFERED.	ASKED.
American Gold	.....	102
Boston Land Co.	2½	—
Boston Water Power Company..	2	2½
Brookline Land Company.....	2	4½
Eastern Railroad, 3½ per cents...	55½	56
Boston, Hartford & Erie R. R.	7½	12½
Boston & Albany Railroad.....	125	—
Boston & Maine Railroad.....	96½	97½
Concin., Sandy & Cleveland R.R.	1½	4
Eastern Railroad	4	—
Metropolitan Railroad.....	—	60
Michigan Central Railroad.....	92	93
Old Colony Railroad.	—	96
Rutland Railroad preferred.....	—	—
Vermont & Canada Railroad....	10	17

THE LION OF MODENA.

A GREAT DISCOVERY.

Sig. Valleco, a native of Italy, who was for many years a sufferer from a chronic disorder inherited from his parents, discovered in a most singular manner a most valuable remedy in an Italian plant, always considered harmless, but never used medically, until by accident, he took a strong decoction of it thinking it was tea, and by his little son for amusement.

It had such a wonderful effect on him that he was induced to make further trial, when to his astonishment, his pains and aches left him, and he was fully restored to health. He administered it to others for various diseases with like success. In all the cases the cures were so rapid and successful as to astound the most skeptical. Numbers who had failed in their treatment, and hardly a disease could be named in which it had not proved efficacious.

Sig. Valleco became known as the **Lion of Modena.** Princes, Nobles and the Learned of the Kingdom flocked to see the "Pleasant Doctor," and he became famed in the wonderful cures he effected with his secret remedy through Piedmont and Lombardy and even Venice and Parma, on the virtues of this great remedy too much cannot be said. Its effects are truly miraculous. It promptly relieves and cures **Throat and Lung Diseases, Hip and Spinal Disorders, Diseases of the Kidneys and Bladder, Female Complaints** of all kinds, **Scrofula, Salt Rheum, Rubinal Contiveness, Rheumatic Affections, Syphilitic** Eruptions, and all Morbid Diseases of the Blood, Bilious Disorders, Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, Nervous Debility, Weakness, Fever and Ague, Sick Headache, Catarrh, Head Troubles, and General Prostrations.

It tones up the Nervous System, Increases the Circulation, Regulates the Secretions, and Aids Digestion. And as a Tonic Restorative is unequalled. This wonderful remedy is known as

SIG. VALLECO'S HERBAL SOLVENT,

PRICE $1.00 PER BOTTLE.

Circulars sent on application, address,

VALLECO MEDICINE CO.,

205 East 14th

READ AND RUN.

—The Old Year went out placidly, as if it was wholly satisfied with its work.

—Watch meetings were very generally held in the city and vicinity, on Monday night.

—The new resolutions are on trial everywhere this week.

—The Boston Board of Trade petitions Congress against the Silver Bill now pending.

—Blotters and calendars have been going out from different establishments in the city by the lot.

—The Russian journals are becoming lustily lot against England.

—Pullman cars run from this city to Savannah without change.

—A flock of wild geese flew over the city southward, late last week. Winter is surely coming then.

—The Boston Gas Light Company will use the year some ten thousand tons of Newcastle coal.

—A number of convicts will very soon be removed from Charlestown to the new State Prison at Concord.

—Now that the golden weddings are so well over, the silver ones are about to begin.

—During the present month of January, Boston stockholders will receive more than ten millions of dollars in dividends.

—The Custom House was closed on New Year's Day.

—The twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Amos Lawrence was duly commemorated by the Young Men's Christian Union, of this city, on Sunday evening last.

—A well-known lawyer of this city has been arrested for the embezzlement of property of which he was trustee.

—The city has made its first payment for land for the new Park, to the Water Power Company. The new Mayor will recommend immediate improvements.

—Free passes are abolished on the Old Colony Railroad.

—The remarkably heavy frosts all through last week were equivalent to light snows.

—The boys that had sleds given them at Christmas and New Year's are getting decidedly impatient to try them.

—They even had Christmas picnics at the seaside.

—Boston roses were in brisk demand in New York for New Year's.

—The Vassar College alumni, numbering about twenty ladies, dined last Saturday afternoon at the Hotel Brunswick.

—In all the Massachusetts Savings Banks there are 726,759 depositors.

—The Murphy temperance movement is making a wide headway in Vermont and New Hampshire.

—An Indian girl has made her appearance in Toledo as an actress.

—A mamps' cave has been discovered in Mercer, Conn.

It looks very much as if there would be war between England and Russia by next Spring.

—Why not nickel as well as silver? It will make a good deal more "money," and is ever so much cheaper.

—The late Dr. J. S. Jones, who died in this city last week, had written upwards of one hundred and fifty plays.

—The Satsuma is the most celebrated and expensive of the Japanese ware, and is so called from the province where it is manufactured.

—Mrs. Isabella Hooker, of Hartford, advocates the putting of women on the police force.

—The labor troubles in Lynn contain the germs of the very perils which overshadowed the whole country last summer.

—No wonder that Bismark's health is not what it might be. He gets up at one o'clock at night to talk.

—The Northampton Bank robbery did not happen to furnish another instance of the combining of crime by the double process of restitution and release.

—The various Club dinners in the city, on Sundays, are becoming a positive social institution.

—Cornell University claims to be the most scientifically situated of any similar institution in the country.

—The Boston and Maine Railroad Company is about to erect a new depot at Lawrence.

—The Hebrew inhabitants of the city consume a considerable amount of meat, but they reject the hindquarters altogether.

—Rev. Mr. Peutecost, of this city, will succeed Mr. Moody in his work as an evangelist, in Providence.

—The Turkish ambassador is on his way to England, with reference to the mediations for peace.

—New York has just furnished some startling exhibitions of fraudulent and crooked dealing in business matters, entailing enormous losses to other parties.

—Commercial street is to be improved, according to the programme.

—Lieut. Gov. Hyde, of Connecticut, recently sold a Devon bull and three cows of the same breed for a thousand dollars.

—The widow of the late A. T. Stewart, of New York, is reported to be about to marry a clergyman.

—Diphtheria in many places, now prevalent, is traced directly to imperfect drainage.

—A suspension of coal mining in the Schuylkill region is talked of, to continue two weeks.

—A man was executed the other day in Tennessee for murder of a man in 1863.

—The Legislatures of a great number of States began their regular sessions this week, including that of Massachusetts.

—Gen. Natt Head, of Hooksett, has again been re-elected President of the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society.

—The Russians profess to be indignant that England should offer to mediate between Russia and Turkey.

—Some of the New York savings banks refuse to receive trade dollars as deposits.

—The Vanderbilt will case grows worse and worse for stirring it up.

—Heavy cargoes of produce continue to go out to Europe by the different lines of ocean steamers.

—A woman in New Hampshire who is a little over eighty years old, has moved in her life more than sixty times.

—Some forty families in Cornish, Me., are about to colonize in Minnesota.

—The bank cod have struck in along the coast in great numbers from Cape Ann to Kennebunk.

—A prison reform convention is to be held at Augusta, Me., next Wednesday, at which sheriffs, jailors, county commissioners and others are to be present.

—The cases of boys shooting themselves and others with pistols is becoming frightfully frequent.

—The Queen's speech at the opening of Parliament is looked for with extreme interest.

—President MacMahon's private secretary goes in Paris by the name of "the blind man's dog," though it is much more prettily expressed in French.

—Rev. Mr. Murray and Rev. Joseph Cook were classmates at Yale.

—The year 1877 is set down as one of unusual prosperity to American churches.

—The health of the Navy for the past year has been better than usual.

—New York made its calls, as usual, on Tuesday.

—Andrew Stiner, of Myerstown, Pa., has raised over a thousand deer.

—The Maine Legislature is also in session.

—The yield of gold and silver in the States and Territories during the year 1877 was $96,000,000.

—The New Year's reception at the White House was largely attended.

—Mr Wm. H. Atwood, one of the oldest oyster dealers in this market, died last week at the age of seventy-two.

—A big and lively butterfly was caught on Charlestown Bridge, on New Year's Day.

—Hon. Marshall P. Wilder delivered the annual address, on Wednesday, to the Historic Genealogical Society in this city.

—Russia declines to treat with England direct, but is willing to see what Turkey has to say about it.

—John Morrissey is ill in Florida.

—California is rejoicing in her rains, which assurance that next season's crops will be large again.

—The Connecticut River has not been so free from ice at this season since 1830.

—Chicago did not receive so many broadstuffs to produce last year as the year previous.

—New York boasts of a hundred failures and settlements in December, aggregating eight millions of dollars.

—A physician in South Boston committed suicide on New Year's Day, on account of low spirits induced by lack of business.

—Livery-stable keepers are not at all in love with the season so far.

—Horse cars are really to run over the Mill-dam.

—The ice men are beginning to wonder about the harvest.

—The income tax is threatened again.

—It costs less than half a cent a day to take a good weekly paper. Who cannot afford it?

—The oldest magazine in the world is the Gentleman's Magazine, of London,

THE GRAIN TRADE.

London, Jan. 1.—The *Mark Lane Express'* review of the corn trade says: "The appearance of the young wheat plant is satisfactory, in spite of the germination of the grain having been slow owing to the saturated condition of the soil. The weather has been very severe in Scotland, but in the south a fair breadth of land is under wheat. In the upper districts farm labor is still much behind-hand. The position of the grain trade at Mark Lane and the provinces is decidedly strong, and with the turn of the year it is likely that considerable activity will ensue. The supplies of English wheat continue very limited, and although holders have not been able to obtain higher prices the tendency certainly has been in their favor. The import of foreign wheat into London has been more moderate, last Monday's return showing a total of only 48,000 quarters, the decrease being due to the falling-off in arrivals of Indian produce and the closing up of the north Russian ports. The most noticeable feature of the week has been a revival of the demand for wheat from country millers, who have purchased more freely at an advance of sixpence to a shilling per quarter. A steady continental demand is also observable, as the exports continue at the rate of 8,000 to 9,000 quarters per week. A fair outward movement invariably exercises a hardening effect on prices."

New Advertisements.

FARMERS, ATTENTION!

Something New.

ANVIL & VISE COMBINED.

PATENTED OCT. 23, 1877.

How many thousand times does a farmer need an Anvil and Vise, and how often has such a tool about their premises been borrowed. Heretofore the cost of such tools has been beyond their means, but with this invention placed at one-half the cost of a Vise alone.

The face of the Anvil is chill hardened, rendering it of sufficient strength to withstand all ordinary usage. We manufacture three sizes at the following prices:

No. 1. weight 40 pounds	.....	$4.00
No. 2. " 25 "	.....	3.50
No. 3. " 14 "	.....	3.00

For sale at the Agricultural and Hardware Stores. All orders sent to us direct will receive prompt attention.

RICHARDSON MANUFACTURING CO., WORCESTER, MASS.

☞ Live Agents wanted to canvas. jan5-6t

To Rent or Lease.

One of the best Farms in the State, 100 acres, 3 acres wood, 4 miles from city of 15,000, and within 9 of one of 30,000; must be a responsible party with some capital. Address P. O. Box 1486, Haverhill, Mass. jan5-tf

Jersey Cattle.

The undersigned offers for sale from his Herd, animals of both sexes and various ages, among which are many prize animals; also Chester County Swine.

C. C. SHAW.

Correspondence solicited. Milford, Dec. 29, 1877. jan5-3*

Almanac, Memorandum and Daily Food, in one Beautiful Vest-Pocket Volume.

THE HAPPY YEAR

Contains a complete calendar for each month of the year 1878; memoranda pages, with blank for each day in the year; a Bible text for each day in the year; readings for each month; selected by Miss M. B. Lyman, and extra blank pages for memoranda. In leatherette binding, black and red stamp. Price 15c. each; $12 per hundred.

D. LOTHROP & CO., BOSTON. jan5-1t

Farmers have been, are, and can be Benefited

By the use of CONDIMENTAL FOOD on their stock. Pamphlet mailed free by the CONDIMENTAL Food Co., No. 208 North Front Street, Philadelphia. jan5-4t

SWINDLERS All devices resorted to by advertising the patent EXPOSED. ADVERTISED to men in each state for the sale of territory. A permanent position secured. Address Publishers Agency of paper sent for nine cents. Address Publishers American Centennial Gazettier, Cincinnati, Ohio. jan5-13t

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Every Housekeeper in the Country

Should read this very carefully and learn how to secure a handsome set of solid

Silver Plated Spoons, worth $4.

The Douglas Silver Plating Company, No. 88 Randolph Street, Chicago, Ill., have, during late bankrupt sales of Eastern manufacturers, purchased over 100,000 fields of the best made solid Silver-Plated Spoons, and at less than one-fourth cost of actual manufacture. Desiring to introduce these goods at once into every neighborhood, they offer, for sixty days only, to every reader of this paper, an opportunity of securing a PERFECT SET upon receipt of sixty cents to pay actual cost of packing, postage or expressage, etc., and the following voucher properly filled out.

VOUCHER. DOUGLAS SILVER PLATING CO., 88 RANDOLPH ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

Enclosed find 60 cents to pay actual cost of packing, postage or expressage, etc., upon a full set of your solid Silver-plated Spoons, and I agree, upon receipt of spoons, to show them to my friends and acquaintances in my neighborhood.

REMEMBER: ALL SILVERWARE Fully Warranted.

Cut out the above voucher, fill it up carefully and enclosed it with sixty cents to Douglas Silver Plating Company, 88 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill., and you will receive by return mail a handsome set of solid silver plated spoons.

Remember that this offer is open only for sixty days, after which price of these spoons will be $4.

jan5-1t

Fifty pages—300 Illustrations, with Descriptions of thousands of the best Flowers and Vegetables in the world, and the way to grow them—all for 2 Two CENT postage stamp. Printed in tiermen and English.

Vick's Flower and Vegetable Garden. 50 cents in paper covers; in elegant cloth covers, $1.

Vick's Illustrated Monthly Magazine. 32 pages, 3m. Illustrations, and Colored Plate in every number. Price $1.25 a year; Five copies for $5.00. Specimen number. Price 15 cents.

JAMES VICK, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

JUST PUBLISHED. THE

SUNSHINE OF SONG,

A bright and sunny collection of New Songs, Ballads and Sacred Songs with Chorusses, and with Piano or Reed and Organ accs't. A book quite American in character, with our own popular composers, and the class of with our own popular composers, and the class of songs that are the greatest favorites.

Uniform in style, binding and price with the "World of Song," "Gems of English Song," and others of the "Library" series, and costs in Boards $2.50; Cloth $3.00; Fine Gilt $4.00.

THE

CLUSTER OF GEMS.

This is a valuable collection of pieces of a somewhat advanced character as to difficulty, and is suited to more highly advanced players. There are 230 pages fine tasteful sheet music size, and the pieces, which average about 5 pages each, are by Leybach, Spindler, Von Bulow, Lichner, Rubenstein, Ascher, Oesten, and other celebrities. Uniform in style, price and binding, with the "Sunshine" described above, and with the 27 other books of the famous "Library" series.

In Boards $2.50; Cloth $3.50; Fine Gilt $4.00.

For Sale at all the principal music stores. Will also be mailed, post free, to any address, for the retail price. Change may be sent in postage stamps.

OLIVER DITSON & CO., Boston.

C. H. Ditson & Co., 711 Broadway, New York. J. E. Ditson & Co., Successors to Lee & Walker, Phila.

jan5-6t

THE COOKED FEED

For Horses AND Milch Cows,

OF THE

UNITED STATES STEAM FEED CO.,

Has proved to be the best staff feed yet used. Composed of superior grain mixed in judicious proportions and sold by the ton of twenty-five bags at about the price of meal.

Horses do better on it than upon raw grain, and Cows give an increased quantity of a better quality of milk, and keep in good condition. For additional information send for circular. For sale by first class dealers in grain throughout the New England States and at the Company's Mill,

96 Beverly Street, Boston.

nov17-13t GEO. L. JOHNSON, President.

DEAFNESS CURED.

Even in cases of long standing and apparently hopeless.

DISCHARGES FROM THE EAR,

From whatever cause, permanently healed.

CATARRH, OFFENSIVE BREATH,

Throat Affections, Asthma, Bronchitis, etc., radically cured, and all diseases of the

EYE,

Whether requiring medical or surgical aid, success fully attended by

DR. A. P. LIGHTHILL,

5 Tremont Place, rear of Tremont House

Hours from 9 till 2. jan5

DR. S. C. HEWETT

HAS removed to 349 Tremont St., where he has splendid apartments and bathing rooms, and female attendants. He applies all kinds of Medicated Baths for his specialties.

Diseases of Spine, General Debility, Hip Diseases, White Swellings, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Scrofula, Sprains, Diseased Joints, Muscles, Limbs, and all Weaknesses. Also Bone Setting.

Dr. H. commenced his practice at the age of 16 years, and 37 years' practice gives him a knowledge over all practitioners. His remarkable cures are known all over the United States. Dr. H. will give advice and medicine in all the above cases if required, to apply at home. Consultation free. nov11-13t

VEGETABLE CUTTERS.

For Pumpkins, Turnips, Mangels, Ruta Bagas and all kinds of roots; cuts fine enough for sheep. Will cut one bushel a minute. The improved Victor Lever Hay and Stalk Cutter is second to none. We warrant these machines the best in the market. Cylinder Cutters, Corn Shellers, Seeds, &c.

ICE TOOLS OF EVERY KIND.

WHITTEMORE BROS.,

128 & 130 South Market Street, Boston.

dec22-cow2t

My annual Catalogue of Vegetable and Flower Seeds for 1878 will be sent FREE, in January, to all who apply. Customers of last season need not write for it. I offer one of the largest collections of vegetable seed ever sent out by any seed house in America, a large portion of which were grown on my six seed farms. *Printed directions for cultivation on each package.* All seed sold from my establishment warranted to be both fresh and true to name; so far, that should it prove otherwise I will refill the order gratis. As the original introducer of the Hubbard and Marblehead squashes, the Marblehead Cabbages, and a score of other new vegetables, I invite the patronage of *all who are anxious to have their seed directly from the grower, fresh, true, and of the very best strains.* New Vegetables a specialty.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marblehead, Mass.

dec22-cow4tsow1lt

Now Ready.

REMINISCENCES AND ANECDOTES OF DANIEL WEBSTER

BY PETER HARVEY.

With Portrait on Steel, size 22; Full-Length Sketch of Mr. Webster, in Fisherman's Costume, by Ames; Green Bank of Marshfield; Webster's Tomb; Old Church at Harbor, at Marshfield; New York, etc., etc. 8vo, $3.

DICTIONARY OF AMERICANISMS.

Fourth Edition. A Glossary of Words and Phrases usually regarded as peculiar to the United States. Greatly improved and enlarged.

LITTLE, BROWN & CO., Publishers, dec22-4t 254 Washington St., Boston.

AMERICAN BOOK EXCHANGE,

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES can exchange dui licates, and books no longer wanted, for any book needed.

Book buyers are offered the greatest inducements to be found anywhere in the United States.

Immense catalogues are given in the *Book Exchange Monthly*, 50 cents a year.

Books loaned to all parts of the United States. Better accommodations for general readers, even in small towns, than afforded by the large libraries of the great cities. As low as three cents a week—popular new books five to fifteen cents a week.

Old books wanted—any or all books supplied. Special advertisements offered on

DICKENS' LITTLE FOLKS.

The child characters from Dickens, making the best of juvenile books.

AMERICAN BOOK EXCHANGE, 55 Beekman St., New York. P. O. Box 4949. dec22-4t

Farms! Farms!

I have the largest and best variety of Farms for sale now offered in this market. Can give you a home in any part of New England at a bargain. For full and reliable description of property given by sending stamp for GRAY'S REAL ESTATE JOURNAL. All letters promptly answered. JAMES GRAY, 29 Tremont Row, Boston.

nov17-4t

New Advertisements.

NUTRITIOUS.

WALTER BAKER & CO.'S

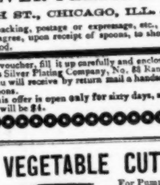
BROMA

is a preparation of Pure Cocoa and other highly nutritious substances, pleasantly flavored and sweetened. It makes a palatable beverage for invalids that is often assimilated at times when other nourishment is objectionable.

Their Chocolate and Cocoa Preparations have been the standards for purity, delicacy of flavor and strength for nearly a century, and are very generally held in high esteem by the medical profession.

Sold by all Grocers. jan5-1t

CONSUMPTION.



THIS man ten years ago went to Dr. E. D. SPEAR and said, "I have had another bleeding spell. I am all used up. I shall never do any more work." To-day he is hard at work, having gained perfect health.

Rev. E. H. McKenney of Saugus Centre, (late of Lynn, Mass., and Eliot, Me.,) writes to Zion's Herald: "I kept on spitting blood every few weeks, when I found myself so weak that I could not walk without a cane. As I prayed, the Lord directed my mind to Dr. E. D. Spear of Boston. I bled but once after commencing treatment."

Wm. J. Jeffrey, at North Reading, had been sick a year, looked on by his friends and physician as past earthly aid. Called Dr. Spear to see him. This was in August, 1875. This winter he is a strong well man; is getting out wood for Salem people.

Charles W. Doe, at Marblehead, had bleeding from the lungs for three years; had given up all hope, applied to Dr. Spear. This was seven years ago. He is hard at work; does not lose a day from sickness.

Rev. Miles N. Reed of Maplewood writes, June 7, 1877:

Dr. E. D. SPEAR—Dear Sir: I truly appreciate your services as a medical adviser and physician. I concluded at the time I consulted you that you understood my case thoroughly, and I feel sure that the treatment has proved that my conclusion was correct. It gives me pleasure to recommend you to the afflicted, believing that they will find you skilful and faithful in your consultations, and safe and thorough in your method of treating diseases.

Many other names could be given, but newspaper space is valuable, and people cannot stop to read long statements. If one believes not this, neither would they believe though one rose from the dead.

DR. SPEAR may be consulted on ALL Diseases free of charge; or by letter, with stamp. Office, 897 Washington St., Boston.

QUINCY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Cash Fund, January 1, 1878, over $370,000. Surplus over re-insurance $160,000. All losses paid in full. Dividends paid on every expiring policy; 40 per cent. on 5 years, 30 per cent. on 3 years, and 20 per cent. on all others.

None but the safer classes of property written.

ISRAEL W. MONROE, *President.*

CHAS. A. HOWLAND, *Secretary.*

BOSTON OFFICE, NO. 27 STATE STREET.

Local Agencies in every town. jan5

My Beautiful Picture Book.

CHOICE, large Pictures exquisitely printed; with Stories in the largest type ever used in a story book. Quarto, 13x16 inches. Illuminated cloth binding, $1.00. In paper binding, 50.

It contains: "Little Foll e Picture Gallery," published separately as a Picture Scroll for the Nursery, to hang up.

D. LOTHROP & CO., BOSTON. jan4-1t

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Every Housekeeper in the Country

Should read this very carefully and learn how to secure a handsome set of solid

Silver Plated Spoons, worth $4.

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A bright and sunny collection of New Songs, Ballads and Sacred Songs with Chorusses, and with Piano or Reed and Organ accs't. A book quite American in character, with our own popular composers, and the class of with our own popular composers, and the class of songs that are the greatest favorites.

Uniform in style, binding and price with the "World of Song," "Gems of English Song," and others of the "Library" series, and costs in Boards $2.50; Cloth $3.00; Fine Gilt $4.00.

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OLIVER DITSON & CO., Boston.

C. H. Ditson & Co., 711 Broadway, New York. J. E. Ditson & Co., Successors to Lee & Walker, Phila.

jan5-6t

THE COOKED FEED

For Horses AND Milch Cows,

OF THE

UNITED STATES STEAM FEED CO.,

Has proved to be the best staff feed yet used. Composed of superior grain mixed in judicious proportions and sold by the ton of twenty-five bags at about the price of meal.

Horses do better on it than upon raw grain, and Cows give an increased quantity of a better quality of milk, and keep in good condition. For additional information send for circular. For sale by first class dealers in grain throughout the New England States and at the Company's Mill,

96 Beverly Street, Boston.

nov17-13t GEO. L. JOHNSON, President.

DEAFNESS CURED.

Even in cases of long standing and apparently hopeless.

DISCHARGES FROM THE EAR,

From whatever cause, permanently healed.

CATARRH, OFFENSIVE BREATH,

Throat Affections, Asthma, Bronchitis, etc., radically cured, and all diseases of the

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Whether requiring medical or surgical aid, success fully attended by

DR. A. P. LIGHTHILL,

5 Tremont Place, rear of Tremont House

Hours from 9 till 2. jan5

DR. S. C. HEWETT

HAS removed to 349 Tremont St., where he has splendid apartments and bathing rooms, and female attendants. He applies all kinds of Medicated Baths for his specialties.

Diseases of Spine, General Debility, Hip Diseases, White Swellings, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Scrofula, Sprains, Diseased Joints, Muscles, Limbs, and all Weaknesses. Also Bone Setting.

Dr. H. commenced his practice at the age of 16 years, and 37 years' practice gives him a knowledge over all practitioners. His remarkable cures are known all over the United States. Dr. H. will give advice and medicine in all the above cases if required, to apply at home. Consultation free. nov11-13t

THE GLOBE NAIL.

The Best Horse Shoe Nail ever made.

About ten years ago the GLOBE NAIL COMPANY of Boston, put on the market the first pointed, polished and finished Horse Shoe Nails ready for driving. Previous to that time all Horse Shoe Nails were pointed, and most of them made, by the shoers in their own shops.

1776.

6 lbs. of Finished Nails per day.

The Globe Nail was at once found to be much cheaper and better than any then in use. It soon became so popular that all manufacturers of Horse Shoe Nails were compelled to make their Nails to resemble the Globe. For the last ten years it has been the model. Each year the Nail has been greatly improved in quality, and to such a point have we educated the shoers that now they will hardly use a nail unless it is absolutely perfect.

At the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, we were awarded the Medal and the following report, far stronger than that given upon any other Nail:

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1876. U. S. CENTENNIAL COMMISSION,

[BUREAU OF AWARDS,] PHILADELPHIA, June 22, 1876.

No. 239, Globe Nail Co., Boston, Mass.:

Horse Shoe Nails, Pointed, Polished and Finished. The uniformity in size, smoothness of finish, hardness and tenacity of the iron, closeness of fibre, and excellence of the head and point, the tensile strength of body, and riveting properties of these Nails, unite in making them of the very highest class of manufacture.

Recommended for an Award of Merit.

DANIEL STEINMETZ, Phila. Chairman, J. D. IMBODEN, Richmond, Va., CHARLES STAPLES, Portland, Me., G. L. REED, Clearfield, Pa., DAV. McILARDY, Aberdeen, Scotland, T. DIEFENBACH, Germany. } Group Judges XV.

Until within a few months we have not been able to make these Nails fast enough to supply the demand. We have now increased our facilities so that we are prepared to fill at once orders for any quantity of either number or pattern.

1876.

600 lbs. Finished Nails per day.

We annex a sample of the testimonials we receive daily from all parts of the country:

ST. LOUIS, MO., June 8, 1877.

GLOBE NAIL CO., BOSTON, MASS.,

Gentlemen: Find enclosed advertisement and postal card concerning your Nail. Referring to a scurrilous advertisement and postal card, disparaging the Globe Nail, circulated by a rival manufacturer, over the humbug signature of "Humane Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals." No Society bearing that title ever existed. As I take a great interest in the prevention of cruelty to animals,—horses in particular,—I desire to say a few words in favor of your Globe Nail. Though I am not a very extensive Horse Shoer, yet I have used enough Nails of the different makes to speak knowingly. I have used the Globe Nail in my shop and on the race track for six years, on all classes of horses, from the heavy draft horse to the tender-footed running horse; and I say unhesitatingly IT HAS NO SUPERIOR IN POINT OF TOUGHNESS, SHAPE OF HEAD AND FINISH OF POINT. IT IS ALSO ANY EQUAL. I have used about fifteen hundred pounds of Globe Nails a year for the last six years, and in that time I have found four imperfect Nails, two of which I returned to you about two years ago and received in return four perfect ones, for which I accept my thanks. If my men had no better sense than to drive those imperfect Nails in a horse's foot it would not consider it the fault of the Nail if the horse was lamed. If horses would look more to the competency of their men and less to trying to get the cheapest Nails, they would be money ahead. I KNOW FOR SAFETY AND DURABILITY THE GLOBE NAIL CAN'T BE BEAT. I am willing to pay without any suit, for all horses that are lamed in my shop by using the Globe Nail. As long as it is made as at present I shall continue to use it, for I could get other Nails for nothing. I consider it the safest Nail that was ever driven in a horse's foot

Yours Very Respectfully, (Signed,) F. H. O'NEILL, Horse Shoer, No. 1007 Broadway.

P. S. I think I could get every boss in St. Louis to sign this if I thought it necessary. F. H. O'N.

The best Horse in sure to win, SO CLEAR THE TRACK FOR THE

GLOBE NAIL CO.

BOSTON, June 23, 1877.

BOVININE

OR

CONCENTRATED

BEEF JUICE.

For purposes of nourishment "Bovinine" is fast taking the place of "Beef Extracts," being far better suited to the most delicate patients. Consumptives and those suffering from debility or low state of the system, derive great benefit from its use. In cases of Poverty of Blood, accompanied by General Debility, this invigorating preparation is peculiarly adapted. Physicians, after several months' trial, pronounce it one of the best articles of nourishment they have ever seen: it containing the chief essentials, in a form palatable and easily absorbed without taxing the digestive organs, and also being entirely free from any drug, they have no hesitation in recommending its use.

PREPARED BY

JAMES P. BUSH, BOSTON.

FOR SALE BY

T. METCALF & CO., 99 Tremont street; JOS T. BROWN & CO., 504 Washington street; GILMAN BROS., 307 Washington street; GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., 58 Hanover street. And other leading Druggists and Apothecaries. Also, McDEWELL & ADAMS, 182 Tremont st. oct26-13t

THE

Examiner & Chronicle,

[ESTABLISHED IN 1823.]

AND BY MANY THOUSANDS

THE MOST WIDELY CIRCULATED

Baptist Newspaper in America,

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT

39 Park Row, New York,

BY

EDWARD BRIGHT & CO.,

IS NOW DELIVERED BY MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID,

At $2,50 a Year.

CLUBS OF TEN, $22, WITH A FREE PAPER.

THE EXAMINER AND CHRONICLE is distinctively a Family Newspaper. In making it the Editor has the co-operation of the best newspaper writers of his own denomination, besides the occasional contributions, in special departments, of writers of acknowledged ability in other communions.

IT COMPRISES

A CURRENT EVENT EXPOSITOR;
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Is Alterative, or Blood-cleansing.
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Is Pectoral.
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Is a Cholagogue, or Liver Stimulant.
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Is Tonic.
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As a remedy for Headache, Dizziness, Rush of Blood to the Head, Tightness about the Chest, Bad Taste in Mouth, Eructations from the Stomach, Bilious Attacks, Jaundice, Pain in the Kidneys, Highly-colored Urine, and Internal Fever, Dr. Pierce's P

The Poet's Corner.

THE GOLDEN MILESTONE.

Leafless are the trees; their purple branches
Spread themselves abroad, like reefs of coral,
Rising silent
In the red sea of the winter sunset.

From the hundred chimneys of the village,
Like the Afreet in the Arabian story,
Smoky columns
Tower aloft in the air of amber.

At the window winks the flickering firelight;
Here and there the lamps of evening glimmer,
Social watchfires
Answering one another through the darkness.

On the hearth lighted logs are glowing,
And like Ariel in the cloven pine tree,
For its freedom
Groans and sighs the air imprisoned in them.

By the fireside the old men seated,
Seeing the ruined cities in ashes,
Asking sadly
Of the past what it can ne'er restore them.

By the fireside there are youthful dreamers,
Building castles fair, with stately stairways
Asking blindly
Of the future what it cannot give them.

By the fireside tragedies are acted,
In whose scenes appear two actors only—
Wife and husband,
And above them God, the spectator.

By the fireside there is peace and comfort;
Wives and children, with fair, thoughtful faces,
Waiting, watching
For a well known footstep in the passage.

Each man's chimney is his golden milestone;
Is the central point from which he measures
Every distance
Through the gateways of the world around him.

In his farthest wandering still he sees it,
Hears the talking flame, the answering night-wind,
As he heard them
When he sat with those who were, but are not.

Happy he whom neither wealth nor fashion,
Nor the march of the encroaching city
Drives an exile
From the earth of his ancestral homestead.

We may build more splendid habitations,
Fill our rooms with paintings and with sculptures,
But we cannot
Buy with gold the old associations!

—*Longfellow.*

Ladies Department

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

DAVID AND I.

AN ORIGINAL STORY.

BY CORPORAL SQUIB.

Author of "A Trip Southward;" "Nautica Sketches;" "Corporal Squib on the Fair," etc.

Continued from last week.

CHAPTER XX.

"What was it, Mary, that you wanted me to say to the doctor?" David asked next morning, while putting on his clothes.

I repeated what I had said to him the night before, very nearly,—"and, O David," I added, "be sure and show to him that you are as much of a gentleman as he is."

"Don't take on any more that way, Mary. The doctor is a good-enough fellow, I'll allow, but I guess we're as good as he, at all events. It's no more than right that we should treat him as well as we can, though, I suppose, after what he has done for us."

Then David went up, and I waited a whole hour in my berth, that he might have plenty of time to explain, before meeting the doctor myself. Indeed it was so late when I rose that I did not go on deck until after breakfast, and I first met the doctor at the table. I saw in a moment that it was all right between him and David. It seemed, indeed, as if they had never been on better terms with each other than they were that morning. Nor should I ever have known from the doctor's manner towards me that David had ever spoken to him one ungentlemanly word.

Not long after breakfast, he brought the book of which he had spoken, and seating himself where David and I were alone, he said, "This is the book of which I spoke to you last evening, Mrs. Bias," and proceeded at once to write in pencil upon the fly-leaf which already bore his grandmother's and his own name. When he had finished writing, he handed the book to me, in silence, and I read,—

"Mrs. L——a T——e
To her beloved Grandson E——D T——R.
"*Livingston Manor, Dec. 25th, 1848.*
Call daily on the Lord.

"Transferred by E. T. T——r to his much esteemed friend, Mrs. Mary Bias, on board the Bark Katrina, Gulf of Mexico, May 12th, 1849, as a token of his appreciation of her true womanly qualities, and as a reminder of scenes of trial through which a protecting Providence brought us safely forth. E. T."

As I read these words my eyes filled with tears. David read them too,—and I saw him turn his face away. But he reached out and took one of the doctor's hands, and held it fast. I saw it all; and yet my bedimmed eyes were fixed upon the book. Then I heard David say, in a rather uncertain voice,

"Doctor, I have spoken of you to you, and to Mary, that I ought to be ashamed of. And I am ashamed of them. I own that I am ashamed; and I ask you both to forgive me."

O was not that a noble confession! Words cannot express the joy I felt, and the pride, that the husband I loved so well was brave enough to say that he had done wrong, and ask to be forgiven. But I left it for the doctor to speak, for I could not, then.

"Mr. Bias," the doctor said, "we are only mortal; nothing more. I look for perfection in no man, and certainly do not claim it for myself. If I had anything to forgive you, I would forgive you at once and with all my heart, but if you refer to the matter of which we were speaking this morning, you ought to consider that as settled. At all events I can't take pay twice."

"All right, then," said David; "all right, and I'll say no more about it. As for Mary, she always forgives me; so I guess I'll let the matter drop entirely. But if you should ever come to that part of the country where we live, Doctor, I hope you'll remember us, too, and just drop in and see how we're getting along. I'm really sorry you can't go with us any further than New Orleans."

And in this way everything was made smooth again, and nothing more occurred to mar the pleasure of our passage to New Orleans. The book—is before me now. It has a cover of embossed morocco, traced with gilt lines. Some of its leaves are yellowed and wrinkled, and have been ever since that fearful night, when the salt water penetrated to almost everything we had. I never look upon it but what I see and hear again, in mind, the good friend who gave it, and I feel assured that, whatever of waywardness may have been his, I shall, somehow, meet him again.

We were ten days in reaching New Orleans; although we arrived at the "Southwest Pass" on the morning of the ninth day. The low banks of alluvial deposit that are constantly accumulating at the mouth of the Mississippi, can scarcely be called land. Approaching the Southwest Pass, a dividing line was seen extending far into the gulf, separating the clear blue waters of the latter from the turbid, yellow current of the mighty river. The line was clearly and boldly defined, extending beyond the reach of our vision, plainly showing that a vast amount of earthy matter the river contained.

We entered between narrow and partly submerged banks of verdure, that extended away down into the gulf many miles beyond anything that could really be called land. The wind was fair, and we made good progress during all that day without taking steam. So narrow was the low strip of coast on each side, that for some hours we could look clear over it, through openings in the obstructing foliage, out upon the broader waters beyond. It seemed, in many places, as if the trees and canebrakes grew directly out of the water. Human habitations were quite numerous upon those low river-banks, however, being raised upon piles so as to be beyond the reach of the spring floods.

Our situation was very interesting. I think I never enjoyed a day's sail more than I did that first one on the Mississippi River below New Orleans. Vessels entering the river generally avail themselves of steam tugs, and are towed up to the city; but the master of the Katrina had been there so many times before, that there seemed no necessity to him for taking steam so long as the wind was fair.

We soon found there was no danger of grounding, unless our vessel should get fairly out of the river on to the land, for the banks descended straight down to a great depth. Hugging the shore, as David expressed it, to avoid the greater strength of the middle current, the bark's masts sometimes almost brushed the overhanging trees, and we could look directly down into open doors upon the domestic arrangements of those river denizens. Occasionally, David and the doctor would exchange a few words with some of them. Once we came upon a "whole coop of little niggers," according to David's vocabulary,—two or three of them, at least, being hardly old enough to toddle about alone. An old man sat in their midst, whose woolly head was turning white. "Good morning, Uncle!" called the doctor to the old patriarch; "you seem to have quite a large family on your hands. But you look rather old to have children so young."

"O Lor', Marsa! dese is Hellen's babies; dey isn't mine."

"Thank you, Uncle! Please remember us to Hellen, and tell her to kiss the babies for a Northern lady who has just passed."

The old fellow opened his mouth so wide, in evident astonishment, that I could not but think that a Northern woman was a rare thing in those parts.

It was a delightful day; though, had we not come from a still warmer clime, the temperature might have seemed a little too high for comfort; but, protected as we were by the awning, and fanned by the soft breeze, the weather could scarcely have been more enjoyable. I hardly went below for a moment during the day, even when the steward came up for the third time to remind us that dinner was ready.

And yet we saw a great many objects that were not calculated to add attractiveness to any country, or beautify any scene. Numberless alligators were sunning themselves upon the logs and uprooted trees that had drifted down the river and lodged, all along, against its banks. We moved so silently that we sometimes got very near to them, before they would drop into the water and disappear.

In the afternoon we passed Fort Jackson, and immediately the shores assumed a different character. It was there that the land really began, and the accumulating mud banks of the gulf were at last left behind. Soon, sugar plantations began to appear; the locality being highly favorable to the production of sugarcane.

A dense forest seemed to cover the country everywhere except in the immediate vicinity of these plantations, which generally extended back a long distance from the river, the rows of cane in which the negroes were at work, reaching often almost as far as the eye could see. The house of the proprietor or overseer, embowered in trees, with the rows of whitewashed negro cabins in the background, formed sometimes a very pretty picture to look upon. A sugar-house with a tall chimney generally stood near.

All night we continued our course, the breeze still favoring, though it had lost somewhat of its strength. In the early part of the night we saw the lurid light of fires, which seemed far off. Whether new clearings were being made, or the refuse of old crops being consumed, we could not determine. At times, too, the sound of negro music came faintly to us from the distant "quarters;" and later, when all was still, these little plantation hamlets took on a sort of weird aspect, as seen in the soft moonlight, the tall chimneys of the sugar-houses standing like solitary sentinels to guard them.

But the mosquitoes—it pains me even now to think of what we endured from them. Neither the mosquitoes of Vera Cruz or of Laguna were of much account compared with these. David said it was but natural that our own country should excel in mosquitoes as in all else. It really seemed as if we had come to the very fountain-head of mosquitoes, and that the supply was unlimited. They drove us down into the cabin; but only to find that they had taken possession of every nook and corner, so that it was almost impossible for any of us to get a wink of sleep. I never before heard such an incessant humming of mosquitoes as filled my ears all that night. And I was made still more miserable by some attempts at wit, which came from David and the doctor. Said David at last, "I shall really have to go into bankruptcy, Mary,—there's no help for it."

Surprised at such an admission, I asked him why.

"Because, Mary, its simply impossible for me to *liquidate all these bills at once.*"

If anything had been wanting to show the depth of David's misery, that was enough; I knew that such a pun could only have been drawn from him by extreme suffering, and I was myself pained by the consciousness of it.

But morning came, and I never was more ready to welcome the rising sun. It was a Sabbath morning, too; and more than that I felt that I was once more in my own country,—although so far from home and all about me was so strange. But with the dawn of day, low-hanging, misty clouds began to gather about us, so thickly that they quite hid the sun from view. It did not rain, but the morning was dark and murky, and the air close and sultry. There was but just breeze enough to keep us moving, slowly upward, and the mosquitoes still hung about us.

Soon after daylight we saw a man—we supposed he was a doctor—sculling along the top of the levee (for we had reached the point where the river was confined by means of artificial embankments), in a gig, which looked as if it might have been the one in which Jefferson rode from Monticello to Philadelphia, in 1776.

We were then near Plaquemine. About noon we reached the bend called English Turn, and there we took steam. Passing the seating ground, where Jackson defeated the British, the crescent-bowed city of New Orleans appeared above us, though still some miles distant.

I had expected to see a good deal of shipping at New Orleans, and my expectations were far more than realized. The levee was lined with steamers and sailing vessels, the whole length of the city, lying broadside to the shore and generally three or four abreast. High above these rose the cotton-bales, that were piled upon the levee itself. Cotton was King, then, and it seemed as if all nations had come to New Orleans to do him homage.

Our bark was moored outside of three other vessels, over whose decks and rails we had to clamber to reach the shore. It was the doctor's first visit to New Orleans, as well as ours, but David thought we had best put ourselves under his guidance. Having learned from our captain something about the hotels, we clambered on shore, and winding our way between the rows of cotton-bales, crossed the levee and entered the city.

I was surprised to see that the whole of the city was apparently below the level of the river; and the discovery gave me a feeling of alarm for the security of its inhabitants. It seemed that, but for the protecting levee, there could be no city there; and how easily a place like that, was more than I could comprehend. But I found that there was a slight descent, from the river, back to a salt-water lake to the eastward. In fact the great river had been piling its alluvial matter higher and higher, as its limits contracted, till it was actually higher, at least at that season of the year, than the country through which it ran.

Having got clear of the cotton-bales, the doctor hired a coach to take us to a hotel; not the St. Charles, but to another, that was said to be more homelike, and where prices were more favorable to people of moderate means. As it was Sunday, I was surprised again, as we rode along, to see so many stores and business places open, the same as they are in our Northern cities on week days. The greater part of the retail stores, at least in the streets along the levee, were open, and there were many cafes and drinking places that seemed to be doing a thriving trade. It did not seem at all like the holy Sabbath day.

And yet there was in almost every face a look of fear, or dread, as if some great danger were at hand. This expression was so general that we all noticed it, before reaching the hotel, and remarked upon it. It was a warm, sultry day, without breeze enough to drive away the damp, low-hanging clouds, and this, with the anxious expression that seemed stamped upon every face, had rather a depressing effect on our own spirits. And we were by no means enlivened, when, upon arriving at the hotel, we learned that the city was stricken with cholera. This dread disease had appeared a month before, and the death-rate since then had been increasing with frightful rapidity.

The news gave me a momentary faintness. It seemed as if we were doomed to encounter perils, and again I feared that we should not escape. I think David had the same feeling, though he would not admit that he was at all frightened.

But as for the doctor, I thought I saw something like a gleam of satisfaction in his face;—though there was evident concern for us, too. "I am sorry, Mrs. Bias," said he, "that the pleasure of your visit to New Orleans should be thus marred, but I think you need apprehend no danger. I have had some experience in treating cholera, and have thus far been very successful. It almost seems as if Providence had designed that I should become useful here."

"Will you really remain here?" I asked.

"It seems as if we ought all to hasten northward with the least possible delay."

"A physician should never fear to remain where he is needed," was the reply. "He would be a shame to his profession, should he flee from danger. I say it modestly, Mrs. Bias, but I think I would rather die *doing* my duty, than live by *shirking* it. I shall therefore remain here, and do what good I can."

"That's all right, Doctor,—that's all right," said David, taking one of the doctor's hands. "I suppose you ought to stay,—but we shan't feel a bit like going away and leaving you here. They say this cholera is a quick-working disease and hard to manage. But, of course, a doctor would naturally feel better to stay where it is."

"Mr. Bias, I shall regret parting with you, but really I shall have but little fear in remaining, and I love my profession too well to let such an opportunity for observing this fatal disease pass unimproved. Thus far I have been singularly exempt from every form of disease, and with due precaution I shall hardly run any risk now."

Thus we were assured that the doctor had really little fear for himself, and that he intended to remain; though at the same time he urged us to leave the city as quickly as we could. But as it was Sunday, and as our baggage could not be landed without a permit from the Custom House, we could do nothing till next morning. There were crowds of steamers along the levee, and we determined to take passage in the very first one that should leave for the Ohio River after landing our baggage.

We had arrived at the hotel in time for a late dinner, but for my own part I had no appetite to eat it. Nor could I endure to sit quietly down, and wait; so, shortly after dinner, we went out, and were not long in finding Canal Street, which afforded the finest promenade in the city. It was a fine broad avenue, and we spent at least an hour in walking up and down it. It was so much more like my own loved North than anything I had seen since leaving home, that I had a great deal rather stay there than return to the hotel.

But we found little else that was attractive,—perhaps because we did not know where to look,—and not long after leaving Canal Street, we returned to the hotel; passing the St. Charles with its imposing portico and massive pillars on the way.

The coming of night was so dark and gloomy, that, with the thought of the deadly pestilence that was around us, I had scarce ever felt more depressed. In the hope that sleep would come to my relief, I went early to bed; and, although mosquitoes were as abundant here as at Vera Cruz, being well curtained in, I at last found the relief I sought.

CHAPTER XXI.

I slept soundly till daylight came again, and then awoke to find a cool invigorating air and a cloudless sky. A gentle north wind—the most delicious of all winds to me then—came down as it were from my own Northern home, bringing life and health. To get the fullest benefit from the delicious breeze, I arose and dressed and went out with David.

We walked down to the levee, and followed it for some distance, reading the destinations of the different steamers, which could be seen in large letters above all the cotton-bales. There were steamers going to all points, upon the Mississippi and its various tributaries, and one of the largest of all was the "Queen of the West," whose destination was Cincinnati. She would leave at 4 P. M. that day, and that we might lose no time, we went at once on board to engage passage.

We found the clerk in his office, and upon inquiring the price of a passage to Cincinnati, were told that it would be only twenty-five dollars for both of us.

"Does that include board?" asked David.

"Certainly, sir," replied the clerk; "and you can come on board at once if you wish.'

"Is there any cholera up the river?" David asked.

"Very little above Memphis," was the brief reply.

"Haven't got it at Cincinnati, have they?"

"It had not reached that point when we left there."

"I'll bet it will before you get back," said David. "But I guess they won't have it any worse than they've got it here; so if you'll just show us your sleeping arrangements, perhaps we'll go up with you."

"I see you are from the North," said the clerk, taking down a key and going himself to show us a room.

"That's so," said David, "and we're in considerable of a hurry to get back there. How long does it take to go to Cincinnati?"

"About a week, usually. At this season of the year, a little longer, owing to high water."

"What makes the water high now?" asked David. "I should think you would have your high water earlier than this."

"It takes a long time for the snows of the North, especially in the mountains where the Missouri takes its rise, to melt and reach the Gulf. It is a long journey they have to make, sir."

"I should say so; but I didn't think of that. I say, Mary, the Mississippi is bigger than the Connecticut, isn't it?"

"From New England, I suppose?" said the clerk."

"You can bet your life on that! My name is Bias, and this is my wife. There's another Bias at home, that belongs to us, and its rather important to him that we should get there before the cholera gets hold of us."

The clerk looked at David as if he did not quite know what to think of him, and I saw him cast a sly glance at me. But we were by that time in the ladies' cabin, and he was unlocking one of the state-room doors. "There, Mr. Bias, sir, I can give you this room, if it suits you," he said, stepping back so that we could enter it.

State-rooms are very much alike, I suppose, on those river steamers, but that one seemed so much pleasanter than any state-room we had had at sea, that we were both well pleased with it. "I guess it will do," said David, "and if you are sure of going this afternoon, we'll come aboard. We've got some baggage aboard a bark down here, and as soon as I can get a permit to land it, I'll bring it up. Here's your money;—twenty-five dollars, you said?"

The clerk took the money, and going back to the office, entered our names upon a book. Then he gave David the key to the room we had looked at, and also some information regarding the cholera. He showed us the cholera preventives, which he was prepared to dispense to any who might have "symptoms" on board the boat, and cautioned us as to what to eat and drink. He told us how suddenly the disease sometimes terminated; but when he had cited two or three cases, I reminded David that we had not yet been to breakfast, and we at once returned to our hotel.

The doctor was waiting our return, that he might breakfast with us. There was a look of sad satisfaction in his face when we told him that we had engaged passage in a steamer that was to leave that very day. "I have done well," said he; "you have done well." And then he added, with a sigh,—"I shall miss you to-night. Still it is better that you should go."

After breakfast we all went together to the custom house. As David did not intend to return to the hotel, he asked for his bill before leaving it, but was surprised to learn that there was nothing to pay. The doctor had forestalled him; and it seemed almost as if David was offended because he had done so. "If you are going to keep this thing up," said he to the doctor, "I think the sooner we get clear of you the better it will be—for one of us, at least. I don't think it quite right, Doctor, to cast *all* your bread upon the waters."

"You don't seem to remember that I have got more than my share, just now," the doctor replied. "Besides, I consider it a privilege to divide with a friend. Please say no more about it, Mr. Bias, for if you do, *I* shall be offended, too."

"You're a queer chap, Doctor, I must say. It's no way likely that we'll fall in with many more like you," and so that matter was settled.

There was some delay at the custom-house, but at last the permits were given, and about an hour before noon we went on board the Queen of the West with our baggage, and no more set foot on shore at New Orleans. The doctor took leave of us soon after, saying that he had already made an engagement to accompany a resident physician in his afternoon round, and that he had a desire to begin work at once. "I have done so little in a professional way of late," said he, "that I am really longing to be at my old tricks again."

"Well, Doctor," said David, grasping his hand, "if you must, you must, I suppose. Good-bye!"

We saw him speaking for a moment with the clerk, and then he went away. I have never seen him since—never shall see him again, on earth; but if good deeds can bring immortal life and eternal glory to any one, these must surely be the doctor's reward.

We never heard from him after that, except in this way:—Many months after, David wrote to him, directing his letter to New Orleans,—to an address which he had given us at parting. We waited two months for a reply, and then we said that probably the doctor had left New Orleans, perhaps to go again to Vera Cruz. But at last there came a letter, and David opened it with eager haste.

It was only his own enclosed in another envelope. Somebody had opened it, and written across it,—

"Doctor E——d T——r died of cholera on the 18th of June."

That was all. Died of cholera. *Born*, rather, into unending life! Died, to us,—but born, to the departed one.

If it were not so then all life is a mockery; creation and existence but a farce, filled with the most unreasonable absurdities. For my own part I have unbounded faith that I shall meet the doctor again.

But he left us, and we saw him no more. And at the appointed hour we left the plague-stricken city. It seems sometimes as if pestilence seeks the fairest places on earth in which to do its loathsome work. It was a beautiful panorama that we looked upon, that May afternoon, as the steamer was cast loose and swung around into the broad river, and then swept grandly past the other shipping, the cotton-loaded levee, the opening streets that ran straight back on one hand, and the verdure-clad shore of Algiers on the other.

At the start the whole of the crescent bow was in view, teeming with life, even though death was so busy, on the one hand, and its shores covered with the most brilliant green, on the other. The steamer's crew—all blacks—gathered in one group on the lower deck and sang their parting song, as we swept past other steamers upward. There was yet no cloud in the sky. The sun was sinking as calmly westward as though no sorrow had ever been known on earth.

The city extended far above the shipping, but took a somewhat suburban character as soon as that was passed,—stretching out at last into broad villa grounds and cultivated fields. The river was higher by several feet than the country beyond the levees, and from our elevated position on the steamer's upper deck we could look away across those fields, which seemed as level as level could be, till miles away the view was bounded by a line of apparently unbroken forest.

We sat and watched the shores till we wearied of looking at them. The city had faded out of sight, and the hour for supper had come. Then, returning to the long saloon of the cabin, we could see at a glance just how many fellow-passengers we had.

The boat was a long one,—I cannot say how long,—and the cabin—a broad saloon with state-rooms on each side—extended nearly its whole length. The after part of the cabin, being separated from the other by folding doors, was given wholly to ladies, or families, but this comprised not more than one-third of the whole length.

In the forward part of the gentlemen's saloon, was the captain's office, on one side, and a bar for dispensing liquors on the other; and although every one seemed to understand that liquors were to be avoided on account of their predisposing to cholera, that bar seemed to be well patronized all the way from New Orleans to Cincinnati. It was a cause of wonder, to David and I, that men could risk their lives for a drink of whiskey.

When we entered the cabin at supper time, it seemed as if every state-room and berth must have an occupant; for, standing around the whole length of the long table, with their backs to the wall, were more men than could be seated at once, waiting, with ravenous looks, for the signal that supper was ready. "I was glad then, for David's sake, that I was with him; for without me he would have had to take his chances with those ravenous men. Before the signal was given, the captain gave each lady, and each gentleman that could claim a lady's protection, a seat at his own end of the table, himself occupying the head.

Then the signal was given,—and American smartness did really show itself. I never saw greater activity than those men displayed. It seemed as if they were imbued with electric energy, so suddenly did they transfer that supper to those chairs. They sat down with such an emphasis, that I really feared they would hurt themselves. I looked at David with thankfulness, I am sure, that I was with him then.

But they did not all sit down. At least one-third of them failed in the attempt. It was a rush, a defeat, a victory, all accomplished in an instant. Before it, each man had chatted with his neighbor without one word or look to show that he was ready to put life against life to get that chair; but that signal for supper cut short each friendly word, and—"Charge! Stanley—Charge!" rushed across my reeling brain.

O poor human nature, thought I, you need a deal of taming yet! Mr. Darwin might have been correct in his monkey theory, in those days, on board our Western river steamers;—though I am not sure but what, under similar circumstances, similar scenes would have occurred almost anywhere. I don't believe there is any more of the animal nature remaining in my own countrymen, than there is in people of other nations;—always, excepting, of course, the Chinese; who claim, and claim rightfully, that they have several thousands of years the start of any other people. For my own part, I am willing to concede that claim,—for the sake of retaining the friendship of so great a nation,—and the only notion that can keep up our supply of tea,—and do the week's washing for the rest of the world. I shall always try to be on good terms with the Chinese.

But when the scramble for supper had sat down, the discomfited reluctantly retired; though not so far but what they could watch for the first vacant chair. It came to be understood, however, that no vacant chair could be filled again at the first sitting. The table would be laid a second time, for the discomfited ones—by far the fairest way—and not till then could they be accommodated. After a few days I got used to this, and did not notice it so much; but at first it seemed as if everybody on board the boat was very hungry.

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"It is very heavy for so small a package," the clerk remarked, with evident curiosity.

"That's so," said David; "but I guess I won't open it right here. If it's anything I hadn't ought to have, I'll tell you."

We went into our state room, and then David undid the wrapper, and found a small ornamented box. On opening the box, what was our surprise to find it filled with silver dollars, solidly packed, with layers of cotton between the different rows to keep them in place. We sat looking at them for a moment in silence. There was no note—not even the doctor's name, but we knew they were some of the dollars he had got at Vera Cruz.

"That fellow means that we shan't forget him," David said. "I wonder how many there are?" And thereupon he turned them out and counted them.

There were four rows, with thirty dollars in each row,—one hundred and twenty in all. "Well, Mary, what do you think of them?" asked David, after we had looked at them again for awhile in silence.

"That we ought not to use them unless there is real necessity," I said. "Let us consider them as a loan, to be returned, should we have no use for them."

"I don't know about that," said David. "I don't think that would quite suit the doctor. He don't like to have such things returned to him, Mary, I've found that out. Anyway, we'll keep them,—and more of it we need them. I wonder if there ever was another such man as the doctor?"

"There surely are not many," I replied; and indeed I could not but think so then.

The possession of those dollars was a relief to both our minds; for we had no means of knowing how much it would cost us to get home from Cincinnati; and there was not over seventy-five dollars of our own money remaining. Should any accident happen, we might need much more. It was therefore a relief to have those dollars, and if possible we felt even more grateful than before to the good man who had so befriended us. But David never told the clerk what that package contained.

I have not yet fully described the boat. It had three decks. First, the deck upon which were the engines, boilers, freight, etc., and upon which the second-class passengers were stowed. Of these last there were a large number—several hundred—who had arrived at New Orleans in an emigrant ship only a few hours before our own arrival. Indeed the ship that brought them had passed us during our first day on the river, having taken steam at once upon entering it, and we had been much interested in the decidedly "ould country" costumes of the passengers who lounged, looking at us, against the rail. Probably the greater part of them had been at once transferred to our steamer, on reaching the city; for I had noticed, as we came on board, that the lower deck seemed quite crowded.

Upon the next deck above, was the cabin; and over the cabin was the hurricane deck, where was the wheel-house, for the pilot who steered the boat, and where any of the cabin passengers who chose to could go and walk. This upper deck extended some distance forward of the cabin, covering quite a large area of open deck, which was provided with seats, and afforded an excellent place to sit and view the country as we proceeded up the river.

I have described the boat thus minutely because I hope that some may read this who never saw a Mississippi River steamer, and if they are like me, they will want to know all about it.

After supper, I sat with David upon the open deck, forward, till it began to grow dark; when, through the open doors, we could see that the cabin was brilliantly lighted, and also observe the movements of those who were within it. It was a cheerful, enlivening scene, and yet wickedness was there, in one of its worst forms.

A group of men stood around the bar, hob-nobbing with each other,—turning their faces at times heavenward,—though only to degrade instead of to elevate their moral natures,—but still worse, another group sat around a table a little beyond them engaged in gambling. They had cards in their hands and money on the table, and occasionally one or another would sweep the money off, and new stakes would be put down. I did not like to look at those men, and taking David's arm, we avoided going near them by entering a side door, and retired to our own room.

(To be continued.)

MORNING.

Oh word and thing most beautiful!
Our yesterday was hard and dull,
Gray mists obscured its noontide sun,
Its evening sobbed and wept in rain;
But to and fro in hiding night
Some healing angel swift has run,
And all is fresh and fair again.

Oh word and thing most beautiful!
The hearts which were of cares so full,
The tired hands, the tired feet,
So glad of night, are glad of morn!
Where are the clouds of yesterday?
The world is good, the world is sweet,
And life is new and hope reborn!

Oh word and thing most beautiful!
Oh coward soul and sorrowful,
Which sighs to note the ebbing light
Give place to evening's shadowy gray!
What are these things but parables—
That darkness heals the wrongs of day,
And dawning clears all mists of night?

Oh word and thing most beautiful!
The little sleep our pain to lull,
The long, soft dusk,—then full sunshine!
To waken fresh and angel fair,
Life all renewed and griefs forgot,
Ready for Heaven's glad surprise,
So Christ, who is our light, be there.

[SUSAN COOLIDGE, in "*Sunday Afternoon.*"]

BREAKING THE NEWS.

BY SHERWOOD BONNER.

It was Christmas Eve, and we were getting ready for a party.

To be sure, it was in war times, and our larder was nearly empty. Besides, father was away, and a raid from the enemy might interrupt the festivities; but for all that, we were determined on a merry Christmas.

Some of "the boys" were home from Virginia, on a furlough, and the dashing guerilla captain, who had served around Hollywell with his intrepid "free lances," had promised to come, escorted by half-a-dozen of his handsomest privates.

In case they failed us, our small brothers were always at hand, and very serviceable we had already learned to make them as knights and esquires. In the pantry "grandmammy" was busy preparing such delicacies as the times allowed, with mother and Aunt Sarah to assist her.

Aunt Sarah Edmandson was an old lady of sixty, whose home had been burned the first year of the war, and who was living with us until the dawn of brighter days. Her two sons were in the army.

Of these sons, one—Herbert—was a dissipated young fellow,—a constant grief to his mother and friends; but the other—Allan—was the pride of her heart. Noble, generous and true, it was not strange that this man had chatted with his neighbor without one word or look to show that he was ready to put life against life to get that chair; but that signal for supper cut short each friendly word, and—"Charge! Stanley—Charge!" rushed across my reeling brain.

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